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Welcome to the Journey! Issue 13, October 2006

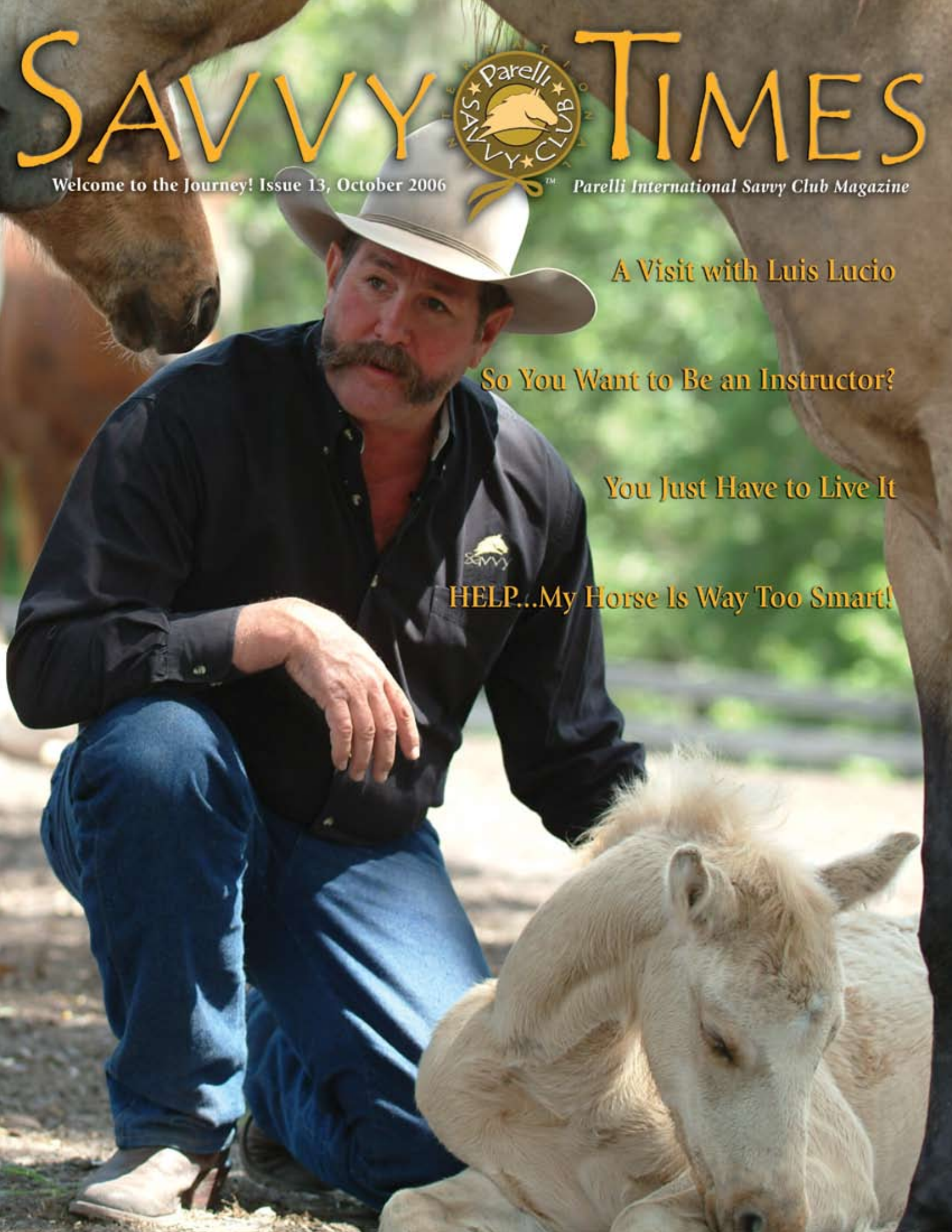
Parelli International Savvy Club Magazine

A Visit with Luis Lucio

So You Want to Be an Instructor?

You Just Have to Live It

HELP...My Horse Is Way Too Smart!





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"I had a great time at the Reno tour stop, as did my husband! This was our first Parelli event, and we are hooked. I'm a horse fanatic, but my husband really isn't. He's into racing cars and what not, but even he is ready to jump into the program after this weekend. I'm so excited to get started!"

—Savvy Club Member



SAVVY TIMES™

Parelli International Savvy Club™ Magazine

Issue 13, October 2006

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Pat Parelli relaxes with the mares and foals in Florida at the Parelli Center.



As our tour season winds down we've had lots of time to prepare for the Savvy Conference, the event of the year where we launch the future. The Savvy Conference begins tomorrow and as I sit here writing to you I'm amazed at how relaxed I feel. Actually, I shouldn't be amazed because we now have a fantastic team of people doing all the organizing and set up so all Pat and I need to do is focus on our sessions. This is our 10th anniversary of Savvy Conferences and it is such a different experience for us these days! It makes us so appreciative of how far we've come and all the wonderful people who have been part of growing the Parelli movement along the way. In this issue, you'll see a full account of what happened in these next three days!

Savvy Conference,
September 2006



So, we love hearing from you and we are so glad to be back. Over the next 12 months we'll be in Australia and in the UK with two huge events that will help us all get back together.

Thank you so much for hanging in there. It's just like horsemanship really...sometimes the darkest hours are right before the dawn.

HELLO UK AND AUSTRALIA!

We're so relieved to be back in touch with you directly. Growth is an interesting and challenging thing, not to mention evolution. Probably the hardest thing for you has been all the confusion that happened in that process. We wish we could have been completely open with you through all of it but naturally we had to be very cautious on a legal level.

So now we are thrilled that we can connect you back to pure Parelli with no confusion. Equine ethology is all about the study of how horses relate to each other, whereas Parelli is all about how we relate to horses. There's a profound difference in what we do and we absolutely do not mix natural with normal.



WHAT'S NEW?

The team has been working hard producing some very exciting new things. Firstly, the course that Pat and I ran last fall "Liberty & Horse Behavior" has been turned into a home study program. We know that so many of you will not be able to come here for a course so this is the next best thing...it's in a pack! You still have to deal with your kids and your job and your spouse and all your daily interruptions, but now at least you can have access to some of what's being taught at the Parelli Centers. What takes the students here two weeks, may take you a couple of months or a year to do, but you can do it at your own pace.

Thousands of years of traditional equestrianism has failed to unlock the truths and solutions for today's more compassionate horse owner. Today, people care about why their horse puts his ears back or swishes his tail...they care about why the horse prefers its pasture mate over them...they care about not being bucked off and wrestling out-of-control horses...they care about their horse's quality of life and the harmony of their partnership, no matter how simple or high their goal.

One of the most mysterious areas for horse riders is their horse's mind, his emotions—how to read and interpret his behaviors. This Course gives you the keys to do it. This Course has changed people's lives, and not just with their horses.

In addition, the Liberty & Horse Behavior Program has a Parelli Puzzles booklet—instead of telling you what to do, it poses puzzles. In this way you can test yourself and be inspired by what your friends come up with.



IMAGINATION

We know that imagination is one of the hardest things to develop and that fun doesn't always go hand in hand with learning. Speaking for myself, it wasn't until well after Level 3 that it kicked in for me but now it's a way



of life. So in constantly seeking ways to help you get it much sooner than I did (!) we have a wonderful new device called the Parelli Play Cards. Complete with timer, challenges and ideas, the Play Cards will help you to have more fun with your horse and with your friends while learning all the principles of the Parelli method. When we tested this, we had an absolute ball!

NEW ON TV

Here in the USA we are on television every week, on RFD-TV. We have just completed our new series which involves posing Parelli Puzzles to a student who has four minutes to do it, and then Pat or I step in and show them how to do something they couldn't do, or if they could...we show them how to do more! We taped these shows live at some of our recent tour stops and the crowd loved it, learned a lot, but even more interesting was how it challenged us as teachers...we only had 20 minutes to come up with something for the students because it all happened on the spot...no rehearsals, nothing!

So enjoy your magazine this month and we look forward to seeing you on the road in the USA, the UK and Australia, or through your TV screen. If nothing else, do whatever it takes to enjoy the whole, sometimes challenging and always rewarding process of learning more and more and more.

Linda



Parelli on RFD-TV



Aha! Moments

You know you truly understand Parelli when you see how it applies to a part of your life that has nothing to do with horses. Send us your *Aha! Moments* to share with fellow Savvy Club members. savvyclub@parelli.com or Parelli, Attn: Savvy Times, PO Box 3729, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

One morning I watched our youngest daughter learning to tie her shoelaces. She struggled with determination to make her fingers bend and pull those laces around into a bow, and after a while she unsuccessfully slumped to a halt. Defeated, she looked up asking me to show her again. I did. Then she tried again and I wanted so badly to help her to get it right that I started getting in the middle of what she was doing. She grew frustrated, I grew impatient. Finally she said "Mommy, just give me time and I can do it."

When I looked at myself and my daughter, I thought of myself and my horse. How many times do I get in the way of my horse trying to figure something out, thinking I'm helping when actually I'm getting impatient and making her frustrated? Some days, in a split second, something clicks. I know that I know that I know. When I worked to change myself, it affected the animals and people around me.

—Tami Pritchett

When my husband, Fred, and I bought our daughter, Meg (14), a horse in 2001 the whole family knew I thought buying a horse was the dumbest thing in the world.

As deeply conflicted as I was about buying a horse for our daughter, watching Meg begin to grow and develop, not just in natural horsemanship but as a human being, becoming more, patient, self confident, even respectful and obedient, I could hardly hold onto my old objections for very long! In fact, truth be told, through her passion and commitment to Parelli it wasn't long before Meg essentially became a role model for me, which is to say that I started trying to imitate her daily discipline and focus in my own life!

Jumping ahead four years, Meg is now 19 and working on being evaluated for the Finesse segment of her Level 3. Our family and friends all recognize that Meg's passion for horses and the Parelli program has led to a happiness in life, a maturity and balance that is much greater than horsemanship.

Whenever Meg manages to achieve her long-term goal of becoming a Parelli Professional, she will be introducing people to the remarkable Program and, in turn, helping them to grow in their own self confidence, patience, understanding, discipline! Far from making horses an obsession, Meg will be helping the world in bigger ways than I ever thought imaginable: Horses may be the medium but personal healing and wholeness is what Parelli is about!

Wildest of all in this little tale is that through the example of our daughter's involvement in the Parelli program I have discovered that passion and dedication are in and of themselves both powerfully transforming and life giving, which in turn has freed me, at 56, to invest in my own dreams—in my case a Mason & Hamlin Upright Piano! And all this got put into motion because of a horse I resented buying for our teenage daughter.

—Carolyn Ellis, Kemp, Texas



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NEVER TOO YOUNG FOR SAVVY

Emma Webb, riding Kari Minlea (Arab) after completing a Ride'n'Tie race where they ran off for a very

exciting close finish coming in 2nd by a hair. Emma earned her Level 1 at nine years of age and has completed: Finesse, On Line and Liberty of

the old Level 2 at 12 years of age with 3-Star Parelli Professional Don Halladay. Emma enjoys long distance riding with her family and the occasional horse show.

—Wendy Webb



photo courtesy of Wendy Webb

PLAY WITH ME!

You might find this event interesting. This is not totally out of character for Yazoo, but it was priceless.

We have been lightly involved (haven't submitted a Level 1 tape yet) with the Parelli home school program for a couple of years now. We don't have much time to spend with our guys, two Arabians and two Mustangs, but we try to make it quality time when we do.

The other day my wife and I were spending some play time with the guys before they had their supper. My wife was playing with her 15-17-year-old Mustang, and I had my seven-year-old Arabian. Her Mustang has a battered-horse background and probably will never fully trust humans again, even us. After playing for some time, Zephyr and I just stood and watched my

wife try to deal with her Mustang, Little Bit. She was trying to get him over some barrels and he was having no part of it. After turning

Zephyr loose, I went to help. Once I had him over the barrels a couple of times, I gave him back to my wife and sat down on another barrel. The halter and lead rope I use with Zephyr was folded and on the ground beside the barrel. I noticed Yazoo, my four-year-old Mustang, coming towards me from about 50 yards off. When he got to where I

was he nuzzled me for a minute then asked the ultimate question. He bent down and very gently picked up the halter and stood there with this pleading look in his eyes. The question was obvious, "Would you play with me please?" How could I refuse? When I took the halter from him, he put his head down so I could put the halter on without getting up. He even put his nose through the halter for me. I wish I had that on video, but at least I have a witness. Otherwise it would be hard for someone to believe.

For the record, the fourth horse is a 24-year-old Arabian.

My wife, daughter, and I have always believed in the natural way of working and playing with horses. I have gotten in more than one altercation with people that didn't treat their horses the way I thought they should be treated. We do not associate with those people anymore.

Thanks for giving us a better understanding of what we do and why we do it.

—Bill Crowder Raymond, Mississippi

EQUINE PSYCHOLOGY QUIZ

Recently, it snowed in our little town of Auburn, California. Not a usual occurrence around here so I thought of a more creative way to show people how much it had snowed. After creating a snow foal I introduced all three of my horses to it.

Three horses are introduced to a snow foal with very different reactions: The first, an experienced Quarter Mare, doesn't even see the foal—no reaction whatsoever.



photos courtesy of Danielle Daugund

The second, a been-there-done-that 11-year-old Arabian Mare, notices the foal, is curious, sniffs it, and then eats grass. The third, a



five-year-old Arabian, is extremely curious and interested, touches the foal and sniffs it.

The explanation for the behaviors above is best described by:

- It proves, beyond a reasonable doubt, that Arabians are smarter than Quarter Horses.
- Since the foal wasn't real, it actually proves that Quarter Horses are smarter than Arabians.
- Exemplifies the stupidity of man—of course the horses don't think it's a foal, they're just not sure what it is because they don't know how to make snow creatures.
- Proof that Sarah needs to teach her Quarter mare to follow her focus.

Thanks for being such wonderful people... I hope to someday visit your ranch in Pagosa. Maybe that will be my Level 3 graduation present to myself (I'm currently working on the 2nd half of Level 3).

—Happy Trails, Sarah Konst

It's just too hot to ride in Texas without a hat!
—Ron King and Sweetie



photo courtesy of Ron King



photo courtesy of Danielle Daugund



Savvy requires walking the walk, not talking the talk. When I bought the Level 1 and 2 programs in 2004, I knew that the information in the little books would fill in gaps where I didn't have any knowledge (or, worse yet, had learned the incorrect knowledge). At first, what I did in the arena with my horse was just going through the motions. I was able to imitate—or to some extent—duplicate what was being asked for in the books. I could play the games!

While my horse and I were able to go through the games fairly proficiently, the information I learned hadn't all connected; it was still rattling around loosely in my brain. My horse was frustrated, and so was I. Rereading some of the principles in the book helped me connect things I'd learned to new lessons. Learning became re-learning and learning on a deeper level.

My learning experiences since then have grown and deepened. I keep relearning the lessons from Level 1 and finding new levels of meaning as we work on Level 2. My horse is learning these same lessons on a deeper level as well. He's becoming more mature, calmer, and more trusting. In the meantime, I refuse to say I have savvy. Acquiring savvy is a life-long process. But I'm learning. Maybe acknowledging that I'm not that savvy is as close to being savvy as I can get right now.

—STUART TICHENOR, HENRYETTA, OKLAHOMA

Savvy happens...

...when I know that as important as it is *how* I ask my horse, it's even more important when I stop asking.
 ...when I realize that as much as I need a plan or focus when I play with my horse that I'm willing to abandon that plan if my horse can't do what I ask of him.
 ...when I accept that just because he would perform a task at home that when I take him to a different place I may have to start over as though he's never done it before.
 ...when I set my horse and myself up for success in every



interaction together—from feed time to trailer loading with a wildfire roaring down the hill toward us.
 ...when I no longer confuse assertive with aggressive behavior in myself (or my horse).
 ...when I always start and end with the Friendly Game so my horse can trust me.
 ...when I reward my horse for coming to me—even if that's not what I asked for.
 ...when I can use what I know to learn more.
 ...when I learn from mistakes.
 ...when I go back to a task we can do successfully after everything blows up.
 ...when I relax while my horse tries.
 ...when I get stuck and go back to the Program for answers.
 ...when I use all I've learned from my horses in my human relationships as well.
 ...when I put my horses' dignity above accomplishment.
 Savvy is as savvy does.

—JAN MURAWSKI EVANS, COTOPAXI, COLORADO

Seeking the Savvy Way

Last evening, I saw savvy reflected back at me as I looked into Kate's brown eyes. She seemed to nod in approval as I asked her to move around the obstacle course I had assembled with three known objects and one potentially scary new object.

First, a known object. I indicated a direction, she moved toward the pole on the ground, paused and asked me, "What next?" I made a very small gesture forward and dropped my hand, she interpreted by moving forward, front feet over the pole, paused and asked again, "Now what?" I thought forward, and so she did.

Next, was her favorite and familiar "spot," so she moved confidently forward and firmly planted both feet on top of it and looked at me with her "How's that for perfectly planted feet?" I cheered her (she really likes "and the crowd went wild" approval) and indicated she should continue around our course.

She moved forward, cautiously to the unfamiliar obstacle, a large board "bridge" and questioned me, "Are you sure about this?" I responded quietly, "Yes, I'm sure you can do



Each issue of Savvy Times features a particular subject to which our readers can respond. The deadlines following are when your 250-word submission must be received to be considered for publishing.

January Issue:

"Harmony"

Nov 15, 2006

April Issue:

"Confidence"

Feb 15, 2007

July Issue:

"Leadership"

May 15, 2007

Please send submissions via e-mail to: savvyclub@parelli.com or via U.S. Postal Service to: Savvy Times, c/o Parelli, PO Box 3729, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147. Thanks!



this." She moved forward, and we played our new favorite game, 'nose-neck-maybe feet.' She approved. I saw it in her eyes through the grateful tears in mine.

Herd of two: Kate, four-year-old, bay Tennessee Walking Horse and Patty Black Moore, advancing and retreating together in the midst of Level 2.

— **PATTY BLACK MOORE, TORONTO, KANSAS**

I've found that "savvy" isn't just knowledge used to interact with your horse. It harkens back to what the old timers



used to call plain ol' "horse sense" (ironic isn't it?) of which there is little in today's world. "Savvy" is using your head for something besides a hat rack! It can be applied to countless situations, not only where a horse is concerned but in many aspects of day-to-day living.

Specifically, however, my own most recent experience in demonstrating "savvy" does deal with horses...more pointedly, a particular horse. Since I raised this gelding

I had eagerly anticipated his becoming old enough to ride. That anticipation was shattered when, as a two-year-old, he threw me off. Fearful, I didn't get back on him for several years, until I attended a Pat Parelli colt starting clinic and successfully got him going under saddle.

Now comes the real "savvy" part. I have come to realize that, although he is a really nice mover and has lots of action, he's really a more lively horse than I care to have

as a partner. As your article on "Horseanality: Barnum and Bailey" (April 2006 Savvy Times) stated, "Don't try to change the horse's spirit! Instead, find a horse whose spirit and innate characteristics are suitable for you." As much as I would like to keep my gelding and see where we go from here, we just do not "gee and haw!" I have a laid back personality, I don't like to ride fast and my reflexes (at 60 years young) aren't what they used to be. If I were 25 again with plans to barrel race I wouldn't even think of quitting this gelding.

Painful as it is to part with him, I now have enough "savvy" to know that just because we aren't suited to each other does not mean that I have failed him or he has failed me. I will continue to train him in the Parelli "way" (we're working on Level 2 as I write this) until such time as I find a buyer for him. I will go back to my slow moving, easy going 10-year-old paint mare who is infinitely more suited to my personally at this stage in my life.

Thanks, Parellis, for imparting the "savvy" I needed to deal with my particular situation without feeling guilty of having failed my horse.

— **LUCILLE MENZIES, MENARD, TEXAS**



Thank You Volunteers & Ambassadors

Thank you to all of our WONDERFUL Volunteers and Ambassadors for a successful and rewarding 2006 Tour Season! Without you, all of us at Parelli could not do what we do! Please stay in touch and we look forward to seeing you again!

How can I become a Volunteer or Ambassador for the 2007 Tour?

Are you a passionate Parelli Student? Do you want to help Pat & Linda Raise the level of Horsemanship Worldwide?

Prerequisites for Volunteering:

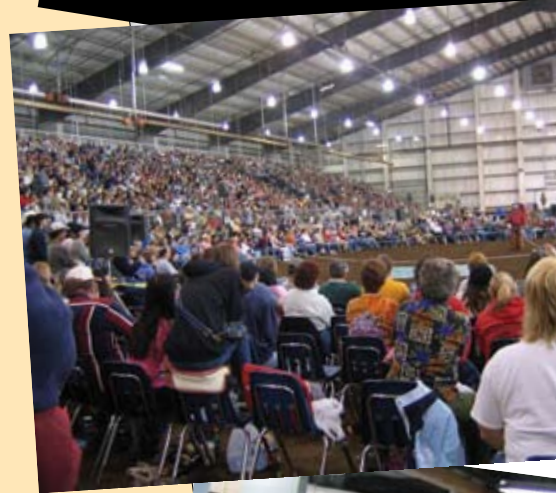
- Parelli International Savvy Club Member
- Official Level 1 Graduate
- completion of Online Application
- must be enthusiastic, friendly, and have a positive attitude
- keen to share the Parelli Program and Products with new students
- flexible
- able to help with either the setup of the booth or tear down
- have time to watch a training DVD

Prerequisites to become an Ambassador:

- Parelli International Savvy Club Member
- passion and Enthusiasm for Pat & Linda's Program
- excited to increase the number of attendees at Tour stops
- keen to share the Parelli Program with local businesses
- a great way to get involved in the Tour stop, even if you can't make it
- have time to watch a training DVD
- assist in greeting attendees at the show

For more information or to complete an online application please visit www.parelli.com and click on TOUR! Applications for the 2007 Tour season will be available in the new year. Stay tuned to e-news for an announcement.

Parelli
Ambassadors



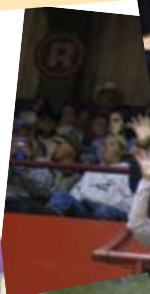
photos courtesy of the Parelli Tour Team





It is hard to put my experience into words. I am truly grateful to the tour team for repeatedly accepting me as a volunteer. It means so much to be a part of something I believe in so strongly. I wanted to volunteer with the tour because I wanted to do my part to help people understand how the program works. I wanted to be a testament to the fact that Parelli really works and share my own positive experiences with them. I love meeting and working with people and I truly feel a part of a team when I volunteer.

-Sherry H.



I thought it was amazing! I think that everyone should get the opportunity to volunteer at some point in their Parelli lives.

-Deborah J.



Meet the Team

Ever wonder how Pat and Linda are able to run a successful business, two ranches, teach and present their program around the world? They have a great support team to back them up. Here we feature some of those team members and ask them what their jobs are like. This issue meet: Laura Dollar from the corporate office, Elizabeth Andriot from the Parelli Centers, and Tara Harris who you may have met on tour.

Where are you originally from?

Laura: Minot, North Dakota

Elizabeth: Louisville, Kentucky

Tara: Clovis, New Mexico

How were you introduced to Parelli?

Laura: My husband and I were looking for new jobs in Pagosa. He interviewed for a position in the IT department and found out they were looking for a Graphic Designer.

Elizabeth: A friend gave me the old VHS tapes to watch when I purchased my first horse in August 2003. I went to the Louisville tour stop after that and then I was hooked!

Tara: I was thumbing through a Cowboys and Indians Magazine and found an article comparing Tom Dorrance, Ray Hunt, Pat Parelli, and a few others. I started looking into spending time with each of them. Pat had a place, a program, and everything about it felt right. I showed it to my parents and they said to go for it. I've been living a dream ever since.

What's your job title, and how long have you worked for Parelli?

Laura: I oversee the Graphics Department, which now consists of a staff of four (including me). When I began here in March 2002 the department consisted of the art director and myself.

Elizabeth: I am the Customer Coordinator/Ranch Administrator. I started in November 2005.

Tara: I've been working with Parelli since October of 2005 and am currently the Retail Finance Leader for the 2006 USA Tour.

What does that job entail?

Laura: My main role is to be a liaison between the Graphics Department and the management team. I take management's goals and objectives and convey them to the designers. I also manage our time and resources on various projects from this Savvy Times magazine to content for the new Savvy Club website.

Elizabeth: I work in the ranch office in Colorado during the summer and Florida during the winter. I take care of all of the students' needs while they are here. I also give tours of the ranch and handle all of the ranch administrative duties.

Tara: On Tour, I look after the retail side of things—anything from inventory, to finances, to volunteers helping us over the weekend. Tour is when I'm the busiest. When we aren't on the road, we're in the office making phone calls, printing copies, preparing for the next show, and dreaming up new ideas.

What's the best/worst part of your job?

Laura: The best part of my job is the opportunity it has given me to learn and grow...as a designer, manager and team member. The worst part is time...there never seems to be enough.

Elizabeth: The best part of my job is meeting so many wonderful people and making lots of friends! The worst part is...I can't think of a thing!

Laura Dollar



photo courtesy of Laura Dollar

Elizabeth Andriot



photo courtesy of Elizabeth Andriot

Tara Harris



Tara: The best is definitely being inspired by Pat and Linda's horsemanship each weekend, and in working for a company that is positive, progressive, and natural. As for the worst, I'm tempted to say our black water RV hoses, but I'm really quite good at them now.

Give an example of what your typical work day is like:

Laura: I get into the office around 8am and check emails and messages. I may try to pull a few notes or samples together before a brainstorming or management meeting. I grab a quick bite of lunch while I work on a project like the weekly e-News or spend some time gathering photos and text for an advertisement to hand off to another designer or contact a print vendor for a quote. The afternoon's full of more of the same. I knock off about 6pm and start all over again.

Elizabeth: Assisting students with any needs they may have, giving tours of the ranch to visitors, answering the phone and emails, assisting faculty and ranch staff, going to town for supplies, and lots and lots of fun!

Tara: On Friday, I lead everyone in setting up our retail area. We set up tables, kiosks, our Savvy Club House, stock inventory, hang banners, build over 300 Kits, set up laptops, and manage to have lots of fun in between. On Saturday, we have a 6:30am team meeting and then start at 7:00 with the volunteers. We have a great set up, play a game or two, and then get the ball rolling for a fantastic day! Afterward we all get to share a few words from our day's highlights and then we have a team barbecue and try to get to bed early. Sunday starts at 7:30 and we are wowed each and every time by Pat and Linda. Then we have tear down and all grab a bite to eat. I then sit down to prepare reports and deposits for the next day.

Are you studying the Parelli Program? If yes, please give us some details of your journey and horsemanship goals. If no or in addition to your Parelli studies, what are your hobbies/interests?

Laura: I am not a horseman. I have four dogs and last winter began to teach my husky/malamute to pull a sled. I consider myself an outdoors-woman and love to fish, hike and camp. There hasn't been much time for recreation lately with remodeling my house. I also explore new trends in the design industry, am an amateur photographer and love finding design or arts and crafts projects to create for family and friends.

Elizabeth: I am playing in Level 1 riding and Level 2 ground. I plan to complete my Level 1 by the end of this year. In addition to playing with my horse, I also enjoy reading, watching movies, and knitting.

Tara: I've been studying the Parelli Program since 2002. I attended a Parelli University module in 2005. From there I was offered a position on Tour. As for goals, I one day plan to be a Parelli Professional. I have from day one, wanted to ride with Pat and I had the opportunity to do so at Level 3 courses in 2004 and 2005, but hope to spend more time learning from and riding with him in the future. As for hobbies, I love spending time with family and friends at the lake or in the mountains.



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2007 FLORIDA

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Jan 28–Feb 9, Mar 18–30,
Oct 28–Nov 9

Course 2: Fluidity I—Freestyle Feb 11–23,
Apr 1–13, Nov 11–23

Course 3: Fluidity II—Finesse Feb 25–Mar 9,
Apr 15–27, Nov 25–Dec 7

2007 COLORADO

Course 1: Liberty & Horse Behavior
May 13–25 FULL, Jul 1–13,
Aug 19–31

Course 2: Fluidity I—Freestyle May 27–Jun 8,
Jul 15–27, Sep 2–14

Course 3: Fluidity II—Finesse Jun 10–22,
Jul 29–Aug 10, Sep 16–28

Current course availability can be found at parelli.com.

You Just Have To

“It was awesome.” “Incredible.” “Life-changing.”

“I can’t describe it—you just had to be there.”

By Penelope Stowell



The buzz around the Parelli corporate offices about “It”—the new Horse Behavior course at the Parelli Centers was huge. But even seasoned Parelli instructors who had taken the course seemed unable to explain to me exactly what “It” was. When a last-minute opening came up in the Liberty and Horse Behavior course, I handed in my annual vacation request and jumped on the chance to find out for myself what is this “It” that makes the new Course 1 so special?

THE RANCH

The Parelli Center ranch in Colorado is always a special place, with or without a new course. As I unload my horse from her trailer and start down the road to the horse pens, I realize there is no adjective grand enough to describe the endlessly surprising and strikingly gorgeous views of mountains and sky at the ranch.

My little Appaloosa mare, Winter, is a veteran of two week-long courses at the Colorado ranch in prior summers. She remembers the layout perfectly and points her nose toward the water troughs. Molasses water is offered at the ranch to help the horses maintain their hydration and electrolyte balance. Winter guzzles it up like soda pop. When she’s had her fill, she plays in the water until her chin whiskers are frosted with molasses. As far as she’s concerned, between those

tubs of soda pop and all the other horses to socialize with, the Parelli Center is summer camp for horses.

THE COURSE

The course kicks off with an orientation session in the lodge. We meet our team of instructors. Jerry Williams, who will co-lead this course with Don Jessop, advises us that the instructors will choose not to answer many of our questions, but will allow us to find the answers for ourselves.

“The structure of this course is a lot different from what you’ve experienced before at the ranch,” he tells us. “Each of you will be on a personal journey for the next two weeks. Let it unfold for you. Relax.”

Live It

While I would describe my prior experience of taking Levels courses at the ranch as exciting, eye-opening, and meaningful, I would never have used the word “relaxing” to define what it’s like to undertake intensive study of a Level in Four Savvys, Five Zones and Seven Games within a very limited period of time. I remember coming home from Parelli Center Levels courses inspired, but exhausted. The idea that I’m going to relax in this course is a novel concept for my predatory mind, and I’m looking forward eagerly to the weeks ahead.

A BLINDING FLASH OF THE OBVIOUS

Our first morning, after feeding our horses and ourselves, we gather in the lodge. We learn that our daily schedule will begin with a “remuda” at 9 A.M., which is a smaller break-out group held in various locations around the ranch. At remuda, we will have a chance to talk about our experiences and observations from the previous day’s lesson, participate in simulations, and address specific questions or problems. Following remuda we will attend a lecture or a demonstration, or sometimes both. We will receive our assignment for the afternoon and break for lunch. After that, we’re on our own to undertake our assignment independently, with instructors available should we run into problems.

Our first day’s subject is the Nature of Horses. We listen to a well-presented lecture full of provocative content and illustrated with videos. Some of the basic information presented was touched upon in the Levels programs, but as the class progresses, I realize that we are being asked to put our personal horsemanship goals aside and devote our full attention to the complex subject of Horse Behavior for the next two weeks.

Then we get our assignment. Keeping in mind what we have learned this morning, we are asked to go out, put our arms over our horse’s withers, and go wherever our horses go. We get a few safety tips, and then we’re turned loose. That’s it. The rest is up to us.

I’m thinking my horse might like a swim in the pond, but she has other ideas. She doesn’t want to leave her pen. After hanging out for what seems like an eternity, she finally decides to go for a drink at the ever-delicious soda pop tub. While she is drinking, I “cheat” and close the gate to her pen. We then spend an insanely boring (for me)

half-hour going absolutely nowhere. I am thinking I don’t really like my horse any more because she’s no fun. What a dumb way to spend a beautiful spring afternoon at the ranch! Stupid horse, don’t you know what you’re missing?

Then it dawns on me that if this is what she wants to do, maybe it would be a good idea to open my eyes and senses to what my horse is really trying to say. Holding the morning’s lecture in mind, I start to pay attention to the way her ears and tail move, how her skin flicks, how her attention zeroes in on passing horses, other corrals, manure piles, feed bins, the way the trees rustle in the breeze. She watches another horse with his person until they disappear; she turns her head and examines me with her eyes and ears and nose. I feel her push through an invisible threshold and her grazing pattern changes. When she picks up her head, I try to see what she’s seeing, and to understand her world.

I have my arm across her back and am matching the movement of my feet to hers, focusing my attention on whatever appears to interest her. Three hours later, we have moved no more than 100 feet away from her pen, and I have discovered that her world is very, very full of an astonishing number of small but intriguing events and perceptions that I never noticed before.

After the exercise, I put my horse up for the night, and lick and chew over my first BFO (blinding flash of the obvious) of the class all the way home. It’s the first of many that will come to me in the next two weeks.

IT’S ALL ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP

It’s Day Two, “Reading The Horse” day. This time, I take copious notes as we cover a quantity of valuable information in that morning’s lecture and demonstration. We are to spend another afternoon following our horses around. Today, instead of being bored by my horse, I am fascinated by her. She’s studying green buckets today and goes over to every bucket she sees to check it out thoroughly. I never knew she was so interested in buckets before.

I’m only two days into the course, and the way I see my horse is already changing. All I’ve done so far is take the time it takes...now, where have I heard that before?!!

LET IT UNFOLD

The week continues to unfold one moment at a time. There are no directives, no goalposts, no set tasks, just the sharing of knowledge and the time to explore what we are learning. Decidedly a linear, driven Type A sort myself, I decide learning to hang out with my horse without an agenda is possibly the most important thing I can do for my horse and myself this week. We attempt a few tasks and I immediately become goal-oriented, so my horse and I spend a lot of time grazing while I try to let go of that almost overwhelming predatory drive within me.

Thursday afternoon, I stand with my horse while she grazes. Another student, her arm over her horse’s withers, works the other side of the patch of grass. She has a thoughtful expression on her face as she watches her horse pick out some clover from among the dandelions.



With a catch in her voice, she says, "This course—it's giving me what I always needed but didn't know I was—I was missing. Do you know what I mean?"

"Yes, I do," I reply. "I feel it too."

"This course—it goes in very deep, doesn't it? It—well, it completes things, doesn't it?"

"I don't know how I ever did without it before," I say.

"Yes," she says. "Yes, this changes everything."

TIME OFF

Weekend is time off. We are not permitted to ride during this two-week period, and I spend the time hanging out with my horse doing lots of grazing, interspersed with five-minute play sessions, which is about the maximum length of time I can play without turning predatory.

I have a lot of licking and chewing to do. I thought I came to the ranch with an unconfident, incurious horse, but a different horse—a friendlier, more curious, and occasionally bossy mare—has now come out to play. Uncomfortably, I realize that I've been typecasting her. Winter has a lot more to tell me about herself than I'd ever realized.

In accepting that there is a lot more to my horse than I ever knew, I also realize that I need to learn more about how to play with the horse that turns up, whether she's unconfident, bossy, frightened, or curious in any given moment.

Play with the horse that shows up. Seems I've heard that before too!

WEEK TWO

I sit on the hill by the tack room in the early morning chill, coffee in hand, notebook on my lap. I watch the peaceful activity in the horse pens, populated with relaxed horses and contented humans going about their morning business. That irresistible earthy aroma of horses so beloved by horse-people mingles with the smell of my coffee.

A classmate approaches, pulls a chair off the stack and sits down. "What are you looking at that makes you smile so?" she asks. I wave at the scene below. "My version of heaven," I reply.

The second week is built around the games. It's not about the games, of course—it's all about the relationship. I am getting that quite clear in my head by now, if not quite yet in my behavior. In my head, I keep hearing Pat's voice saying, "Touch your horse with your heart in your hand." This week, every time I do that and I see how much it means to my horse, it almost brings tears to my eyes.

By now, too, my horse has clearly demonstrated to me that she is quite capable of changing her behaviors if I approach her with

my heart in my hand; I appear to be the one who is having trouble learning this new way of doing things. It's a sobering thought to realize how stubborn I am about letting go of the predator in me.

"IT"

On Tuesday afternoon, my horse and I share a perfect moment. I ask my allegedly incurious horse to put her nose on a paper cup. She touches it, picks it up, shakes it, drops it, and steps on it.

What is so perfect about the moment is not that my incurious horse has turned into an explorer of paper cups. The perfection is that instead of asking her to do it again, I have the sense to stop immediately, walk away, and go hang out in a good patch of grass. This is a BIG behavioral change for predatory me.

The next day, in the middle of an ambling graze, my horse spectacularly leaps a chest-high obstacle from a standstill in response

to a Phase 1 ask at the end of a 45-foot Line. Again, I find I have just enough savvy to step away and let the moment be.

It's taken my horse a long time to get me here, but she's finally teaching me to respect her every try. I feel like I've just invented natural horsemanship all by myself!

Now that I'm listening to my horse, the BFOs come thick

and fast. My course notebook is filling up with instructions to myself like "Don't knock the curiosity out of her!" and "Be clear, be particular, be sparing!" I know Pat has told us these things over and over, but in the context of this course, I'm awakening to these ideas as if I were thinking these things up for the very first time.

And my horse—my wonderful, curious, pushy, skeptical, unconfident, brave little horse—is changing before my eyes. Something new and joyful is happening in our play together. I feel my heart expanding, and my creativity along with it. What is it about this course that has accomplished such a profound transformation in our relationship in just two short weeks?

As I'm mucking out my horse's pen that Friday morning, the last day of the class, I reflect on something Pat says about teaching horses; "Let the horse think it's his own idea." Pat and Linda are the acknowledged experts on showing us how to teach our horses by setting them up for that magical moment of experiential learning. Have Pat and Linda now also found the key to teaching humans so that, like our horses, what we're learning feels like we invented it ourselves?

The idea is so big I have to sit down. I realize that I have been gently and thoughtfully guided through the curriculum of Course 1 so that I could discover for myself what I needed to learn, and have experienced this knowledge as if it were my own idea.

This new course is not about learning a set of skills or mastering a body of rote information. Teaching that kind of class is hard enough. This course is about core principles, and to teach principles on the



experiential level, the way Course 1 does, is almost impossible. Yet in these two weeks, Pat and Linda have led me to experience and live certain deep and fundamental principles of natural horsemanship in such a way that the learning and the knowledge are now mine forever.

Is this the "It" that makes this course so different?

GOING HOME

Sadly, we come to the end of the second week. Those of us who have to leave are envious of those who are staying for the full six weeks. I promise myself that I will come back again for Courses 2 and 3, as soon as time permits, but I'm going home with a full heart and an excitement about the days ahead for my horse and me.

What this course has given me is not a set of skills, but a foundational truth. The principle of "it's all about the relationship" has finally become indelibly real to me—as if I invented it. It's not a trick, it's not something to be rushed through, and to use the classic Parelli example, it's not a case of faking it by saying "It's not about the trailer" when, to the human, it still really is about the trailer. I came into the course thinking I knew this. After these two weeks, I now have this principle not simply inside my head, but deep down within my bones. It really *IS* all about the relationship, and it can't ever be about anything else again.

The Monday morning after the course, I'm back at work. My coworkers eagerly ask me, "How was it? How was the course?"

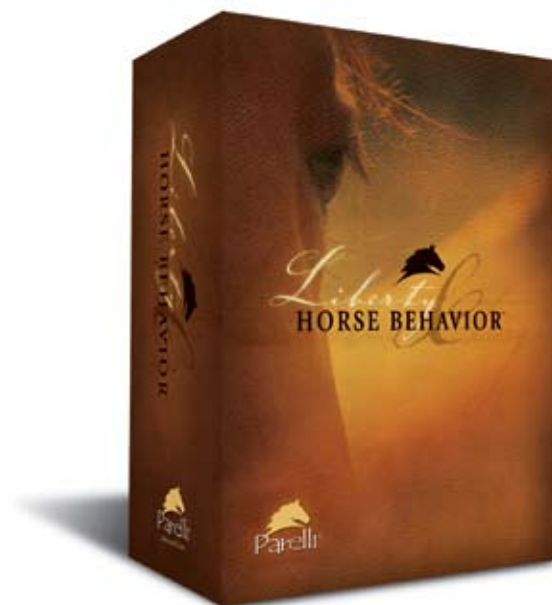
"It was awesome," I say. "It was incredible, life-changing."

But all the words in the world seem inadequate to describe "It."

Truth is, I can't describe "It" either.

You just have to live it. 🐾

**Bring "IT"
home with you...**



(see page 57).

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number of your Parelli study buddies!*



New Release!

Blast from the Past

We'd like to take a moment to bring you a blast from the past! This article was published in "Parelli Natural Horsemanship" Volume 1, Issue 3, January/February/March 1996.



Linda and I have been looking, looking, looking for the best place possible that would be suitable for a home base and campus for the Horseman's University we've been dreaming about building for a long time.

We looked in four different countries and considered locations in more than a dozen states. This place we were looking for had a lot of criteria to meet. It was like the story of the three bears—it couldn't be too big, too small, too flat or too hilly. It had to be picturesque, have water, trees, meadows, views and be surrounded by national forest so there would be unlimited riding and no potential for encroachment of civilization.

The weather was a big consideration, it had to have perfect summer time climate so those of you who would make the trek could enjoy the beauty of green grass without heat or humidity. We were looking for an alpine setting that had all four seasons, not just July, August and winter with two bad months of dog sledding! On top of all that it had to pass the 'Bonanza' test. The only way it could pass this is when you first drive up the driveway you got the feeling that the Cartwrights—Ben, Hoss, Adam, and Little Joe were going to come galloping across the meadow to meet ya!

Location was also high on the list. It had to be as central as possible for students that would be bringing their horses from the USA and Canada, and have an airport close enough for those who would fly in from all over the world. It had to feel remote when you got there without it taking a four-wheel drive vehicle to make the last 20 miles.



EUREKA
...means "I found it."
WE-REKA
...means "We found it!"



Did we find such a place??? Like I said "WE-REKA...we found it!!!"

This place that we call the Parelli Center is seven miles west of Pagosa Springs, Colorado on Highway 160 then it's just a mile and a half up the driveway to the best horse-human playground you can imagine!

Pagosa Springs is in the Four Corners area about one hour east of well-known Durango, Colorado and two hours from Taos and Santa Fe,

New Mexico. The reason it is called Pagosa Springs is because of the world famous hot springs in the center of town. Pagosa is a Ute Indian word meaning "Healing Water," the springs have been used by people for more than 10 thousand years. The elevation is more than 7,000 feet and is surrounded by majestic mountain peaks that are more than 12,000 feet.

So now our dream is real! The ultimate natural playground where you can come and immerse yourself in high octane learning and soar with eagles just like

you—aspiring students of Parelli studying the science and skills of what it takes to become a Horseman. Already we have enrollments from the USA and Canada as well as Australia, New Zealand, and Sweden! We look forward to having you here for what we guarantee will be the ultimate experience. 🐾





A NATURAL BEGINNING

I would love to share this great picture of my seven-week-old colt who just loves to be scratched. I watched Pat's Video "A Natural Beginning" and tried to incorporate as much as possible when I spend time with my colt. He's called Patch, by the way. He is wonderful, loves people, he is always the first one to walk up to me, he leads well, he picks up his feet when



squeezing the chestnut. He knows the Friendly and the Porcupine Games, he's great with fly spray, disinfectant and saddle blankets (that I just throw on him for fun). He is my first horse that is Parelli-trained from day one, I can't wait for him to get bigger...Isn't he cute?

—Anja Cemalovic, AB Canada

MY STAY IN THE MOUNTAINS



I have just experienced something that I know I could not have experienced anywhere else.

Two weeks at the Pat Parelli Center in Colorado has brought about a change in me that will plot the path for the rest of my life. I went there looking for knowledge and returned with a feeling inside that has given me a better understanding of life and what's important to me. It's the feeling of Mother Nature, of the mountains, of the sky and the birds that fly in it, how the clouds gather and send their forks of energy down to the earth, it's living in the moment. In our everyday lives it's so easy to forget to listen to it, see it, feel it and live it. For two weeks this is exactly what I was able to do.

This is a place where you are free to delve as deep as you desire into the why, how and what of horsemanship. It's a place that holds wisdom for those who seek it. It gives you safety, comfort and play. It's a place where words take on new meanings and those meanings touch your heart and soul.

I came into the house the other evening and my son was watching the TV, some words jumped out at me that caused me to listen. "You are traveling to another dimension, a dimension not only of sight and sound but of mind, a journey into a wondrous land whose boundaries

are that of imagination."

Maybe I have been to the twilight zone!

Since my return I have been confused with so many thoughts and revelations running through my head. How

could I have built such a heart-warming relationship with a horse that I only knew for two weeks and yet my horse at home doesn't know me as this person? Did I go there for my horse or did I go there for myself?

I should have trusted that my horse was the one to tell me what I needed to hear. For the first time in months he started asking me questions, I realized that he had given up asking questions of someone who just wasn't listening. He gave me two eyes, maybe he is seeing something in my eyes that says I understand a little better, and he gave me permission to place my hand on his face, something he has never done in the seven years I have had him.

On the last day of the course I had to say my goodbyes to Daisy, my lease horse. I took her to her pasture with tears in my eyes and an overwhelming feeling of gratitude. I took off her halter and she turned to me for a cookie then just drifted away. I remember thinking she's not my horse, I only borrowed her for a short time and then it occurred to me that even my own horses are not truly mine, I am just borrowing them from Mother Nature. Lucky me!

—Sharon Haines, United Kingdom

THANKS FOR THE NEW LEVEL 2



Just a quick thank-you for having the New Level 2 DVD pack available for students in New Zealand to purchase.

Today, the information contained on only one of the DVDs was worth more to me than the price of the whole pack. My yearling Appaloosa filly seriously cut her hind leg sometime last night. As there is no resident vet here on the island I have to tend to my horse's injuries without the aid of pain medication or sedation.

A little background on my filly: I have had her since the day she was born and have played Games 1 and 2 with her at liberty regularly. At five months old I had to wean her from her mother—the mother used to literally ram her through fences of all types, including a four rail cattle stockyard, and she has needed a couple of Bowen treatments as a result. She has only had a halter on twice in the past two months, once to get used to the feel of the weight of the halter and lead, and the other to progress her Porcupine Game.

The poor wee thing stood perfectly still while I cleaned out the cut, even allowing me to hold up her leg while I cleaned it, only moving to follow me when I moved away from her.

If I had not purchased the New Level 2 DVD pack I would have struggled to prepare her for an injection. After no more than five minutes of Friendly Game with a syringe and doing the simulation



from the DVD she had no 'issues' at all about receiving the injection. She even licked the syringe (empty one I played the Friendly Game with) after she had the shot.

Again, thank you for making the New Level 2 available. Without it, my bad day could have been a lot worse.

—Bernice, New Zealand



DEAR PAT & LINDA

I just thought I would drop you a line to let you know how I am progressing in your program. Firstly, I want to tell you how much I enjoyed your Savvy Conference in Pagosa last year. Two friends and myself traveled to Pagosa from Australia just to see your Conference and loved every minute of it. I particularly enjoyed watching Caton and Lauren. It was very inspiring to see what can be achieved by other Parelli students with a disability.

You may remember when you were both in Australia last for Equitana in Melbourne, I told you that I had been to Germany to study with Silke for five weeks and passed my Level 2 ground skills. Well since then, I have been bringing Shahcago up to speed with Level 2 and revisiting parts of it that I didn't quite savvy enough before purchasing your new Level 2 pack at the Savvy Conference last year. I have realized that he isn't as confident as I thought he was. He displays his unconfidence very subtly and I used to mistake it for disrespect or just miss it all together. I've also had a few confidence issues to overcome myself with using the 22-foot Line.



I haven't really ridden since starting your program in 1998. I've had a couple of rides on other students' horses and have had a few led passenger lessons on Shahcago. When I bought Shahcago in 2000 he was

four years old and still quite green. So I've been waiting until we are both properly prepared and confident. However, our ground skills keep improving. Our real strength is Liberty.

My horsemanship goals are to play towards passing Level 3 on the ground and to one day be able to ride again. When the weather starts warming up here I'll be starting our hill therapy program. Shahcago moves so lazily that his back is beginning to sag and his rump and withers look a bit wasted, plus he is just fat which I'm sure doesn't help.

I am looking forward to seeing you both next year when you visit Sydney, for the Australian Conference and to hear all of your latest horsemanship discoveries. I don't think I've ever told you both how much I love your program and all of the things I can now do with Shahcago because of it. It is a very big part of my life. And as much as I do want to ride, I never thought not riding could be so much fun.

—Nat Uscinas, Australia



PARELLI FAMILY

Our thanks must go to Pat and Linda for giving us something to live for... Sounds a bit over the top? Not if you knew what our family has been through. My husband Steve and I were absolutely devastated when our beautiful six-year-old girl was killed by a falling tree, which two of our girls also witnessed. It happened to be on the day that I was to start my first Parelli lesson with our local instructor Kaye Thomas. Bad weather forced us to cancel... The rest was a nightmare.

It was hard to keep going for the longest time and I didn't think it possible. Our beloved horses were left to themselves in the paddock and I honestly thought I would never ride again.

Just spending time with these sensitive beings and having a friend in Parelli eventually seemed to encourage us to participate in life little by little. Now five years into Parelli, we are all passionate and devoted students. Even our four-year-old knows the lingo. Almost every weekend there are carrot sticks, saddles, halters and of course horses to be found in close proximity of any or all five of us.

As the photos show we are learning heaps and thoroughly enjoying every moment we have. Emma (14) and myself are studying Level 3, Maddy (9) is in Level 2, and Steve is very close to earning his blue string. Brydee (4) can't wait to get her Level 1.

We are all grateful for the savvy we have gained. It is impossible to put into words the positive effects on many levels that Parelli has had on our lives.

—Smith Family, Australia



photos courtesy of the Smith Family



a visit with
~LUIS LUCIO~

**Legendary Spanish Dressage
Rider and Trainer**

A native of Barcelona, Spain, Luis Lucio has played a major role in developing the discipline of dressage in his home country.

Born in 1958, Luis has been riding since he was eight years old. Although he also rode jumpers, dressage has long been his first love. He has been recognized many times as a champion in his chosen sport of dressage and also honored as one of Spain's top sportsmen. In addition to his passion for dressage, Luis is an ardent promoter of the Spanish P.R.E. horse, also known as the Andalusian. Beyond his accomplishments as a rider and trainer, Luis is a dressage judge and popular presenter at many conferences, an author of books and articles, a video producer and lecturer on both classical dressage and Spanish horses.

Luis rode his first international Grand Prix in 1987. He competed as a member of the Spanish Olympic Dressage Team in the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, as a reserve rider, and at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

As an elite dressage trainer, Luis specializes in children, junior and youth riders and has had great success in this area. He has coached many juniors and young riders to



gold medals and championships over the years, and his riders have competed in championships across Europe. The Spanish National Junior team in 1985 was comprised entirely of Luis' students, and he has been responsible for training riders of the European Junior and Young Riders Spanish

Team in more than ten European Championships.

In addition to the experience and technical knowledge required to be a successful trainer, Luis believes that even more important is having the ability to explain and transmit this knowledge to his students.

Luis has committed his life to improving himself and has worked with some of the world's best riders and trainers. Through the years, he realized that in order to train and develop the dressage horse, it was necessary to better understand the horse's mind and emotions.

"We need to look after our team companion, the horse, if we want him to collaborate in our plans," says Luis.

His dedication to finding a better way of relating to the horse naturally led him to learn more about the Parelli program, to which he was introduced in 2002 by a friend



and fellow rider. Having worked with some of Europe's most respected dressage trainers, Luis now counts Pat and Linda Parelli among those esteemed horsemen and instructors.

We recently visited with Luis Lucio to discover his thoughts on Parelli, the dressage world, and his own determination to better understand his trusted partner, the horse.

HOW WERE YOU FIRST INTRODUCED TO PARELLI?

"In 2002, my friend Cecile Glamour in Barcelona invited me to a Parelli demonstration. I didn't know Pat and Linda personally at the time, but I had heard about their program and its success. Even though I didn't know the details, I knew they were true horse people and that I could learn a lot from them. I was very interested to meet them and find out more about the Parelli program.

"For many years I had learned from the best European masters in France, England, Belgium, Holland and Germany. It was exciting to have a chance to learn about this new American message, so I was happy to go when my friend invited me to the show."

YOU'VE HAD GREAT SUCCESS WITH SO MANY YOUNG RIDERS.

DO YOU THINK THEY ARE MORE OPEN TO PARELLI THAN OLDER RIDERS AND IF SO, WHY?

"I do not think that young people are especially more open to Parelli than riders of other ages. In my opinion, the Parelli program is more accepted by those who are just beginning in the horse world and for those who are already experts than by the ones in-between.

"I have now incorporated Parelli into the daily dressage training of all my horses."

"I've found that many riders need to do things the wrong way to gain more experience and realize they need more knowledge to solve the problems they have in different ways."

WERE YOU LOOKING FOR A DIFFERENT WAY OF WORKING WITH HORSES WHEN YOU DISCOVERED PARELLI?

"I was always looking to learn and improve when it came to technical training matters relating to both horse and rider. You always need to try and find better ways of doing things.

Luis riding Nervi,
a 7-year-old
Andalusian stallion

◀ Luis with Linda's
Dutch Warmblood
Remmer in Denver,
Colorado



"When I discovered Parelli, I already felt experienced about the technical side of training and felt capable of getting a horse to perform dressage exercises. But up until that point, I had never thought enough about the horse's mind and how this relates to training."

HOW DID YOU START INCORPORATING THE PARELLI PROGRAM INTO YOUR TRAINING?

"I spent hours with Pat and Linda, watching them play with horses. After working with them, I also spent time learning under several good Parelli instructors, including Walter Gegenschatz, Michael Wanzenried, Katja Taureg and Karen Rohlf.

"The most extraordinary thing Pat and Linda have offered me is the chance to discover more about the horse's mind and emotions."

"I first started using the Parelli program myself with a young horse that Walter and Pat started, and I practiced every day for three years. During this time I introduced Parelli to more and more horses. I have now incorporated Parelli into the daily dressage training of all my horses and we currently work all the horses On Line using these methods."

WHAT CHANGES HAVE YOU SEEN THROUGH USING THE PARELLI SYSTEM OF WORKING WITH HORSES?

"The improvement is immediately obvious in the relationship between rider and horse. In the first place, even before the horse begins to think or pay attention, the rider is already conscientious about the horse's mind and attitude. That in itself is already a big step forward. Then, the Seven Games help the horse and rider relate with each other. Both horse and rider become more confident and after that, everything becomes easier.

"Using the Parelli program, I have experienced incredible changes with horses that had difficult behavior. Once you have this breakthrough, the horse becomes much easier to work with as you progress with normal dressage training.

"I have some riders with horses that are challenging and difficult. Once they see the results they can have by 'playing' with their horses, they never again want to just start riding without first spending time playing. They develop a routine of playing with the horse On Line before they ride and they can tell this benefits the horse's attitude once they do ride. The more they do this and see how much it helps, the more they like it."

WHAT HAVE YOU SEEN AS FAR AS RESPONSE FROM OTHER RIDERS AND COMPETITORS TO YOUR USE OF PARELLI?

"The response of riders often depends on their level of knowledge and experience. I have found that the more advanced the rider is, the more they are accepting of using the Parelli program. I have never tried to convince riders that they should use the Parelli system, even though I use it on my horses, as do many of my friends and customers.

"Here in Spain, for example, our national dressage trainer Jean Bemelmans and Beatriz Ferrer-Salat, another highly respected trainer, are very enthusiastic about Parelli."

DO YOU USE THE PARELLI SYSTEM IN TRAINING ALL OF YOUR HORSES NOW?

"Yes, in different ways you can find the 'Parelli message' in the training of all our horses. Most of the horses in training are currently stabled at the Llanvaneras Equestrian Center in Barcelona.

"Wherever I go and whenever I talk about dressage training, I make it a point to include the Parelli message to get the information out."

ARE YOUR HORSES MORE SUCCESSFUL IN COMPETITION NOW THAT YOU ARE USING PARELLI METHODS?

"I think all of my horses are more ready to offer whatever we ask of them since I started using the Parelli program. We have experienced very good results with horses that were considered 'difficult' and we continue to use Parelli every day.

"I have also found that riders who use Parelli methods have a better understanding of how to develop a good relationship with their horses and this helps them to be more successful in competition."



TELL US ABOUT MEETING PAT AND LINDA AND WORKING WITH THEM.

"From the first time I met Pat and Linda, they opened their hearts, their home and shared their knowledge with me. I can't say enough about them!"



"Not only did they share their friendship, but they also shared their enormous wealth of experience and knowledge with me in the areas where I had been looking for answers for a long time. They gave me and my friends the help we needed.

"I consider it good therapy whenever I am able to spend several days with them. It's exciting to share experiences with such experts who are so knowledgeable in understanding how horses think and behave. Probably the most extraordinary thing Pat and Linda have offered me is the chance to discover more about the horse's mind and emotions. When we use the right language, which is based on the horse's natural behavior, then we can improve our leadership of the horse."

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WERE SURPRISED TO LEARN ABOUT PARELLI?

"For someone coming from Barcelona, just to know a real cowboy is a big surprise!"

I've found that just being around Linda and Pat is very different and exciting. You can tell they live with and for their horses. The relationship they have with horses is something that is not possible to imagine without seeing it for yourself.

"When horses are around Pat and Linda, you can tell that the horses are actually happy and they want to work hard.



This attitude of the 'happy equine athlete' is something that we really need to see in our sporting world of dressage, and I am really trying to learn this from Pat."

HOW OFTEN DO YOU GET TO SEE PAT AND LINDA?

"We get together as often as my agenda allows. Even

though my schedule is not as busy as Pat and Linda's, there is still the challenge of working out a time to see each other. This is the first year that I couldn't visit them in the summer to go with them on tour and I have to say, I really miss it. I am looking forward to seeing Pat and Linda in the very near future so I can have the opportunity to show them I've been doing my 'homework!'

"Pat and Linda always invite me to their tours in the U.S. and Europe, and I try to meet up with them as much as I possibly can."

HOW CAN THE DRESSAGE WORLD BENEFIT FROM PARELLI METHODS?

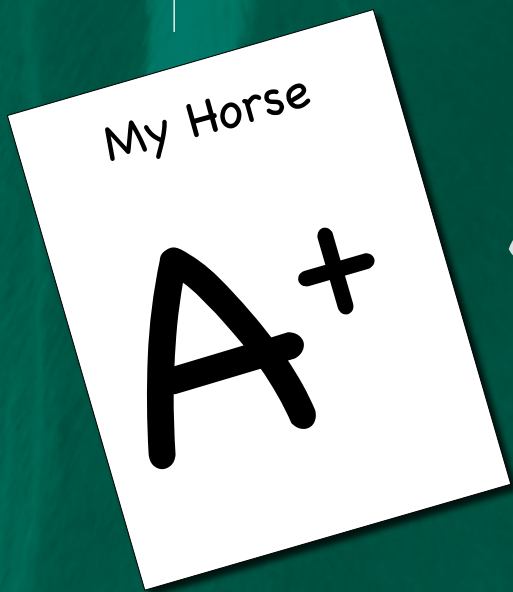
"I think that the dressage world is already looking for Parelli methods. The FEI is emphasizing the concept of the horse being a "happy athlete" and this is a big influence.

I think that in the future, we will get closer and closer to using Pat and Linda's methods and that our horses will benefit from this.

"Many horse people know a lot about the horse's body, but not enough about the mind. The Parelli program can help us achieve better results in competition by teaching people how to understand the horse's mind and how to communicate with the horse clearly. Professionals can benefit a great deal from the Parelli program in order to improve the way we deal with daily problems.

"I invite all riders and horse lovers in whatever discipline they are in, especially those from the dressage world, to learn and practice the Parelli program to achieve a new level of relationship with horses never imagined before." 🐾

HELP... my horse is way too smart!



How to become riveting
for your Left Brain Horse

by Linda Parelli



*They're cool, calm, confident and learn quickly.
BUT...they can be 'stubborn', easily bored,
uncooperative, pushy, mouthy, domineering, aggressive,
and way too smart for us until we get more savvy!*



There was a time when I thought right brain horses were very challenging. But the more I teach and learn and advance, the more I see that left brain horses can be even more challenging. At least right brain horses want to move!

Right brain horses are fearful, unconfident, spooky and impulsive. They're quick to blow up and take a long time to calm down. Once you know how to interrupt their explosive patterns and build their confidence, they become willing and curious. Left brain horses on the other hand can be quite testing mainly because they're not intimidated, are self confident and constantly working their way up the pecking order ladder.

Pat tells a great story about this...think about your horse being in a herd of 10 and he's poor number 10. He drinks last, gets pushed away from his food and spends his whole day watching out for number one and dodging numbers two to nine as they constantly move him out of their space. Then

on Saturday he hears the gate creak as it opens and you walk in. He rubs his hooves together and thinks "Oh boy...here comes number 11!" And that's just if he's number 10, imagine if he was number one!!

Have you ever been flicked right in the face by your horse's tail and thought "I wonder if that was an accident?" What about when he calmly steps on the hose, or your toe, or head-butts you in the back? When Pat talks about horses playing games with you, THIS is the horse he is talking about! It's not your average timid little prey animal, this horse is running things his way. He's highly food motivated, excellently stubborn and sometimes downright aggressive.

DON'T ASK TOO MUCH AND IT'S ALL GOING TO BE OKAY

As long as you don't ask too much, things will probably be just fine because these calm characters are not given to great expenditures of energy and are not very spooky. They



usually love trail rides but are bored to death in an arena. They love learning new things but they're bored by mundane

If you just tell his body what to do without engaging his mind you're in for a struggle.

repetitions and especially circles! How can you tell they're bored? Low energy, crabby expression, resistant, tail swishing, bucking. Yes, bucking! Sure it uses some energy but it only takes one or two before he's convinced you that cantering is not a good idea. These horses are masters at making you frustrated or intimidated enough to ask very little and quit riding so much.

Here's the thing, you have to get him interested in what you want to do. If you just tell his body what to do without engaging his mind you're in for a struggle. Spurs and whips are usually what riders resort to, but if at first they seem to work it's not long before your horse has thought up more ways to discourage you including charging at you when you

arrive to get him. Frustration can grow into fights and the next thing you know, you're no match for the horse. When these horses get aggressive, you're in big trouble. They've learned that they can dominate you and what seemed like harmless pushiness in the beginning was a series of tests to see how far they could go.

Forcing or punishing these horses is not a good idea because they quickly find out that women are more easily intimidated and while men can get more out of them, some of them actually become horses that people say 'hate men.'



You need to learn how to earn their respect and win their friendship. It's all about love, language and leadership in equal doses with a heaping helping of play and fun.

THINK LIKE A HORSE... THIS HORSE

By observing herd behavior and the dominance games that go on you'll probably be shocked at how rough horses can be. They chase after each other, tear off pieces of skin and then they settle down and graze and scratch each other's backs. The key is that they have a strong relationship to begin with because they are members of the same herd, they play together and they spend a lot of time together—undemanding time.

Now think about how humans usually interact with horses. We decide today is when we're going to ride, we only have a certain amount of time so things get pretty direct line. Catch the horse, saddle up, head to the arena to practice something...with a pretty unwilling horse. It's interesting how quickly horses forget who feeds them; they start to feel like we only want one thing. So where you have to start is with the thought process. Think about what might be important to your horse.

If you've been studying our program, you would have learned that safety, comfort, play and food are important to horses in general, and in that order. Until they feel safe,

they are not concerned with comfort. Until they feel safe and comfortable, they will not be interested in play. And when they feel like playing, food rewards work like a treat! The

Remember that the left brain horse can read people like a book and they are acutely aware of our patterns and habits. People tend to be creatures of habit, especially around horses.

problem is that most people don't understand the hierarchy of needs so they use food to bribe skeptical horses to get into trailers and more and more discomfort (spurs, whips, force) to make disinterested, sour horses perform better. The result is the same: it doesn't work. If you know that your horse is left brain, confident and dominant then safety and comfort are not issues...but play and food are!

When horses play dominance games with each other, they are playing games. When they pick on you or outsmart you, they are playing a game and they're winning big time if they can push your emotional buttons. Making predators impatient, tired, scared and frustrated enough to give up is how prey animals have survived for millions of years. When they feel emotions rise in you, they know success is close

so you have to learn to not get emotional and you can't fake it because they can tell. The answer lies therefore in more savvy and in doing the unexpected.



Some Ideas For “Doing The Opposite”

- » Go get your horse and take him grazing.
- » Go and don't get your horse. Give him a treat and hang around and scratch him for a while. Do you know his favorite itchy spots?
- » Go pet and scratch another horse!
- » Chase him around the pasture then go sit down and ignore him. Read a book.
- » Play with him before you saddle him.
- » Hold a cookie with the bit and see how long it takes him to put both in his mouth. Do it every time until he starts looking forward to the bridle coming his way. Then start giving him the cookie after he takes the bit.
- » Go to the arena and unsaddle him, scratch him, play “Sniff This, Sniff That” (Level 2 Program).
- » Get him some toys and interesting conversation pieces: a big green ball to sniff, follow or push around, a pedestal / stump to stand on, a Frisbee to put his foot on.
- » Plant treats in strategic places, in corners of the arena, on a barrel here and there, at different spots around your riding areas. Pretty soon he'll feel your focus on going somewhere to be really positive and become amazingly willing.
- » Underwork him. If he doesn't want to go forward, sit there and pet him, give him a cookie or four. If he wants to keep changing gait, ask for it before he does it and pet him. Walk and trot slower than he wants to. Pretty soon he'll offer to do more.
- » Think about new things to teach him on the ground... anything, especially if there's praise or a treat for him.
- » Take trail rides...even if you don't have trails, think about going somewhere around the property, through the barn, to the arena and out again, or to delicious grazing patches. Left brain horses are stimulated by new things, they're curious. When you stimulate their curiosity, they become more willing to go.



SURPRISE YOUR HORSE

What would surprise your horse? One of the first things is doing the opposite of what he expects. Remember that the left brain horse can read people like a book and they are acutely aware of our patterns and habits. People tend to be creatures of habit, especially around horses. In fact many people are told that they need to do A, B, C...catch the horse, groom him, saddle him, bridle him, take him to the mounting block, get on, ride around the arena, etc. Horses are experts at what happens before what *happens* happens. Pretty soon they're avoiding things well ahead of time, they put themselves in positions that make it hard or impossible for you to do things, move when you want to saddle them, nip at you when you're cinching up, turn away or put their head up when you want to bridle them, step on your foot before you mount, shift and move as you put your foot in the stirrup, won't leave the barn...uh, oh. Could this all be part of a big plan to make the predator give up?!

You need his mind set to change. By becoming more interesting, less predictable, less bossy or obsessed with perfection you'll suddenly find your horse liking you more, tuning in, putting in more effort and developing a more positive attitude. He'll actually become eager to see you and go play. For some people imagination comes easily while others, like me, have had an imagination bypass! I had to learn how to become more imaginative and thankfully Pat's Program had that all built in to the Seven Games—the Seven Games with an Obstacle! By thinking in categories like Sideways or Squeeze or Yo-Yo or Driving... pretty soon you're posing interesting puzzles* for your horse when you get to an obstacle. Instead of your horse assuming he's going to jump the log or step on the stump, you'll have him put one foot on it, side pass him over it or around it, back him to it, drive him around from Zone 3, 4 or 5. Get the picture. The main thing is to play, play, play. As soon as it feels like work, this horse will quit on you, but if you can keep the spirit of play going and lots of praise and moments to rest, you'll find you can even make things like flying changes and half passes, jumps or spins and stops become fun instead of pressure.

DON'T TREATS ENCOURAGE BAD BEHAVIOR IN HORSES?

...Only when you use them as bribes or when you don't know how to play the Seven Games. The Friendly Game is the most important of the Seven Games and the other six are about moving your horse around. When we get things out of balance then the relationship deteriorates either because all we do is love on our horse and don't get them to do things

that are interesting, or all we do is make our horse do things and don't give him enough love. It's a fine balance and as I'm fond of saying, it's only the secret of horsemanship! In becoming more savvy we learn how to balance things out for the kind of horsenality we're dealing with...how much love, how much variety, how much consistency. Horses do not understand punishment and they don't deal well with pressure. You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar, so if you find yourself getting frustrated all the time or smacking your horse for trying to nip you, you'd better start with the honey! Respect is earned by being the kind of

Aggressive horses don't need more smacking, they need more loving.

person your horse would like to interact with, not by smacking him a lot. You've got to get this left brain horse to like you and by understanding his hierarchy of needs you will know that play and food are high priorities. Play is how you create respect, food treats is how you develop incentive. Aggressive horses don't need more smacking, they need more loving. I've watched Pat play with these horses in hundreds of demonstrations all over the world. The last thing he does is start bossing the horse around, it almost looks like he's doing nothing and yet the horse changes dramatically fast. He's doing the opposite of what the horse expects and the horse becomes intrigued..."Hey, this human is different! He's interesting! He's provocative and fun!"

Sometimes when students have problems with horses biting at them when they tighten the cinch, I tell them to give their horse a carrot when he puts his ears back and starts to swing his head around. Of course this usually produces comments of shock and disbelief. "Won't that encourage him to bite, isn't that a reward?" Nope, you're surprising him by doing the opposite of what he'd expect, so his attitude changes toward you. It's not about the cinch, it's all about how he feels about you. If someone you didn't like brought you chocolates all the time and sincerely complimented you a lot, for how long could you continue to think bad thoughts about them? Horses are quick to change and to forgive, they just need us to change first. Unlike dogs who love us no matter what we do, horses are very conditional.

Probably the biggest problem for you is going to be dealing with the so-called experts around you. They'll tell you that this is wrong, that you're spoiling your horse and it's not serious horsemanship to be playing all the time. One word of advice...don't listen to them! Watch the change in your horse. He's the one you need to impress! 🐾

*For more ideas and challenges, play with the new Parelli Play Cards (see page 16), use the Parelli Puzzles booklet from the new Liberty and Horse Behavior Home Study Program, watch your Savvy Club DVDs, and the new 'Have More Fun With Your Horse' shows on RFD TV on Dish channel 9409 and Direct TV channel 379.

Celebrate Ten years



ting off Savvy!

by Kaffa Martignier



Many years ago, Pat Parelli stood on this hill top and envisioned a three sided arena with an open side that would look out upon the Colorado Rocky Mountains.

He dreamed of a time when people would come here to celebrate a natural horsemanship movement that would change the world for people and horses.

Pat marked the corners of his imagined arena with orange cones, and then he left on his next trip—to Australia. The snow fell to hide those markers, the white silence covered over the seeds of a dream, while Pat sowed other seeds of that same dream on the far side of the world.

When the snow melted, the markers were still there, and today that dream has come true. This is the 10th anniversary of the Parelli Savvy Conference, and the Big Top plays host to the dreams, the hopes, the anticipation of an extended family of Parelli Natural Horsemanship devotees who have come from around the world. Savvy Club Members, enthusiasts, students and Parelli Professionals fill the grandstands, waiting...

A horse's neigh curls along a wild wind blowing. Hoofbeats and heart beats set a rhythm amid the music of the 2006 Savvy Conference Opening at the spiritual home of Parelli.



Neil Pye's Australian accent has been a part of every Parelli show for more than a decade, "Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Linda and Pat Parelli." 1,700 pairs of clapping hands synchronize with the heartbeat woven into the music, as Pat and Linda follow Remmer and Casper into the arena. Hand in hand they greet the crowd, and the crowd responds with a standing ovation—the first of many standing ovations this weekend.



"I'm riding with my baby and it's a brand new day, And on the wings of an angel I'm flying away..."



Remmer and Casper shine with health and exuberance, and the words of Keith Urban's "Who wouldn't wanna be me?" are on everybody's lips:

"...I got the one I love beside me, my troubles behind me, I'm alive and I'm free—who wouldn't wanna be me?"

A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE

As the music ends, Pat addresses the crowd, "In our shows on the road, we show you the *wow*. Here at the Savvy Conference, we show you the *how*. We hold some things back all year long, just to share them with you at this event. This is for the truly dedicated. Raise your hand if you drove more than 40 miles to be here." Laughter ripples through the international crowd.

Pat talks about his natural horsemanship mentors, many of whom have passed away, taking their knowledge with them. "This weekend we will share a glimpse of the future with you. This isn't going to disappear into the ether when I pass on; Parelli Natural Horsemanship belongs to all of you. You are part of my past, but more, you are part of my future. Together, we can design our dreams.

"I have something pushing me from behind. This is bigger than I am. Through this Natural Horsemanship journey, we can become better, kinder, more caring human beings."

As Pat talks, there is silence in the stands... "Over 100,000 people worldwide are sharing Parelli principles now. If you have the passion and the dedication, we have the knowledge and empowerment. We want you to help us change the world for the better for horses and people. We want you to help us raise the standards in the horse industry. Folks, the future of Parelli is here."

PAT AND THE DRAFT HORSES

Pat enters the arena riding Magic and driving two blue roan draft horses, in full harness. It's the first show for these two horses, and it takes all Pat's leadership to keep them on track. "Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome the newest members of our equine team, Thunder and Lightning!"

"I don't ask for much, I only want trust, And you know it don't come easy..."

The words of the song are fitting as Pat manages Magic under him and two huge, scared horses in front of him. He uses prey animal psychology and approach and retreat to build the draft horses' confidence, with the crowd, the red sled sitting in the middle of the arena, then with the swingle bar hooked to the traces, far out behind

the drafts. Gradually the distance to the swingle bar is reduced as the horses' confidence grows.

Pat's leadership encompasses everyone: sensitive, high spirited Magic, the two unsure draft horses in the traces, the ground crew and the crowd. He directs the horses and his team never leaving a moments doubt, and at the same time he entertains and educates the audience.

After the swingle bar is accepted, its time to hook up the red sled. Only Pat could have thought of a way to introduce such green horses to pulling an implement, managing the lines from horseback and entertaining 1,700 people all at once.

Each step is orchestrated so that if anything went wrong, the sled would come apart from the horses—there is always a way to allow a retreat and a fresh start.

Pat describes what confidence and impulsion look and feel like. "*Impulsion* is light on the reins and heavy on traces. *Impulsive* is heavy on



the reins and light on the traces—they're rearing to go but they can't go because they're rearing."

"Who does NOT want to see two blue horses chased by a red sled through the grandstands you are sitting on?" No one in the crowd wants to see that picture. Pat has Helen stand on the sled with one wrap of a 22-foot Line around the bar, from there to the swingle bar and back to the sled hitch. If she lets go the sled comes unhooked; if she hangs on, the sled follows the horses.

As the horses start up they startle forward when the sled follows them. Magic is on the inside of the ark they travel—the sled is following her too and that starts to worry her. Pat is at his fun-loving, multi-tasking best. "I like Darwin's theories—EXCEPT, I believe that as often as a man needs another hand there should be a third one growing out of his stomach!" There is laughter from the crowd as Pat manages two sets of reins and three sets of scared equine footfalls.

"If we hang in here we just might get things going good soon...we don't want to bore you!" The crowd is on the edge of their seats.

Then there's a change in the horses—Thunder's head lowers and Pat feels them grow lighter on the reins, heavier on the traces. Two starts, three starts, smoother each time, cutting the distance between the horses and the sled in half each time.

Now Pat wants to try to put Magic's front feet on the sled. The first attempts don't go so well, and the audience holds its breath. Pat lengthens the

driving reins with a savvy string, to give Magic more space. There is silence in the stands as Pat, Magic, Helen and the drafts try to work it out. They almost make it, and Neil's voice comes softly in the background, "Don't clap..."

Finally they strike it just right and Magic's face is a picture of puzzlement as her back feet step along, following her front feet out of the arena on the red sled.

Helen lets go the rope to disconnect the sled, Kalley takes the team from Pat, Pat gallops back into the arena and the crowd goes wild.

Amid the laughter, Pat describes Linda's face a few days prior when she said, "Pat, what are you doing?" and he replied, "Well, I had a good idea. I'll show you on Friday!"

CASPER, PAT AND MAGIC, LONG LINE DANCING...

After playing with the draft horses, Pat rides Magic and drives Casper in long reins. The music gurgles like deep water running; we can see and feel the flow of life beneath Casper's black hide.



In Pat's hands, Casper finds something he does not have alone.

Then the music changes and there is light and air in the dance of the man and horses, the dance of life.

Pat finishes with both horses in piaffe and a certain indescribable energy field surrounds all three of them, as the rhythmic clapping synchronizes with the music and the beat of the horses' feet.

LINDA AND ALLURE, ON THE DRIVING GAME

Next, Pat introduces Linda, "Your job is to transform into the human your horse is begging you to be. Our job is to give you the steps. This was



the inspiration. Now, to show you the steps toward high-level Long Line Driving, please welcome my most dedicated student—Linda Parelli."

Linda and Allure take us through the beginning steps to teaching long line driving, and then following Linda come Amy with Prince and Rachel with Dreamy. Grace, synchronicity and flow—it's all there. They earn a standing ovation, and later, the retail stand runs out of 45-foot Lines!

PAT—SECRETS OF BRIDLELESS RIDING

Pat rides Magic in a full bridle to music. Then he removes the bridle and takes two sticks, with strings on. At first, it seems the strings are tangled, but it's soon evident that they are meant to be tied together so that Pat and Magic can play skip rope! Walk, trot, canter gallop, slide stop, back up...

More than once our hearts are in our mouths as the strings get caught between Magic's back legs or under





her tail. Not many people would have the nerve it takes to wait, relaxed at the canter or gallop for the feel in the sticks that tells Pat the string has come free and he can lift it up...he finishes with a slide stop and piaffe, and laughs at his breathless audience, "You should see the looks on your faces right now! Woohoooo!!!"

Next, the story of Thumper the wonder mule leads to the history of bridleless riding. Pat describes how he responded to one compliment for his famous bridleless demo with Thumper, "You've seen me do the same things a thousand times, with the bridle on. I started by collecting her heart, then her mind, then her feet. The bridle has nothing do with that."

We hear about the Vaqueros (buckaroos) and Latin horsemanship—passionate horsemanship versus Germanic horsemanship for warfare.

Halfway through the story of the Vaqueros teaching lightness to their horses so that they could win the bull fight and the heart of a beautiful woman, Pat says, "Real cowboys have snaps on their shirts!!" and pops open the snaps of his shirt. Our soundman, Michael, is right on the ball with "I'm too sexy for my shirt..."

Pat braids his reins into the snaps of his shirt and gives us a lesson on focus. "Eyes, belly button, legs...the belly button is what turns the horse. You gotta be careful where you point your belly button."

"...the Vaqueros were seeking lightness. The word for a heavy handed person was 'coriente' or 'trash'. Coriente is a word for someone who would have no time to do it right but lots of time to do it over and over."

Amongst the story telling there is a Friendly Game/Driving Game test for Magic. "Simon says, 'the stick means turn now.' Simon says, 'the stick means nothing now.'" The only difference is the life in Pat's body—the untrained eye would have no way of knowing how Magic knows the difference. "How does she know?? Like the thermos, how does it know? Hot or cold!!!"

"The bridle does not give more control, it gives more clarity. Earn the right to use it. Become the dance partner your horse is dreaming of."

"I never did believe in miracles, but I've a feeling its time to try. I never did believe in the ways of magic, but I'm beginning to wonder why..."

The beautiful Fleetwood Mac song, "You Make Loving Fun" plays as Pat dances with Magic.

LINDA—COLLECTION NATURALLY

Linda tells a little of her story, and soon has the audience in stitches, "I had a dressage background, and then I ran away with a cowboy. I knew I was never going to be a cowgirl. I tried

wranglers and hated them, but I do like to cross dress, and that's why now I wear chaps over my jodhpurs!" The crowd roars with laughter.

"When I met Pat, my passion was dressage—that's what I really wanted to be good at. Pat said to me, 'Become a Horseman then, dressage will be easy.'"

So, I dedicated myself to learning horsemanship, naturally. But every time I tried dressage again I got stiff. I kept getting stuck back in that mindset, of wanting to *make* it happen.

"This session is some of what I've learned about attaining collection, naturally. Its about harmony and intimacy with a horse who is a willing partner. It's also a sneaky peak at the new Level 3 Finesse information.

"A key is not to ask for more than he is willing to give. Then, I have to get him to *want* to give more. In natural horsemanship if you miss the psychology you've missed the whole thing.

"I am not interested in competition. I want to DANCE with my horse and



win his heart, not win the ribbon and loose my horse's heart. This is about collection for fun."

Fluidity, relaxation, synchronicity, patterns—each is important, and each is a study in itself. Linda sketches out the skeleton for us so that we can see the steps as she catches Remmer's interest and reveals a motivated, willing partner.

The music plays and Linda and Remmer dance together. Aristocratic, beautiful, untouchable, almost unreal, they set an ideal, a picture of joyful intimacy to strive toward.

PAT, MAGIC, THE DOGS & THE COWS

Pat brings Magic, the dogs and the cows into the arena and introduces them. He tells a little of Magic's story, how four different "professional predators—oops, I mean trainers" had said she was worthless and couldn't be trained.



Pat describes what it has taken for Magic to find confidence and purpose as he 're-naturalized' her and how her talents and sensitivity now have an outlet that is fitting to her nature.

He talks about the importance of cross training for horses to keep their interest, "Magic and I do lots of things together, but what we really love is to play with cows..."

He asks for the big green ball to be placed in the arena. "Magic and I are going to pick out a cow, bring up her confidence and curiosity, and have her place her nose on that green ball." The crowd laughs out loud at the cows' faces as the green ball goes by—it doesn't look at all like any of them will be putting their nose on it any time soon.

With a little maneuvering, a cow is selected out from the herd. Magic's face has absolutely come alive. You can almost see her nerves stand on end, so fascinated is she by that cow. Foot for foot, move for move, in Pat's words, Magic is "all over that cow like a cheap suit!"

"Why this car is automatic...it's systematic... it's hydromatic. Why it's greased lightning!!"



The music fans the excitement as Pat holds onto the horn and leaves it all up to Magic.

The sand flies up behind Magic as she races the cow across the arena, and then boils around her legs as she turns with it. Three hard turns and the cow is convinced. It moseys down the arena and its attention is caught by the green ball. Just minutes after making his claim, Pat and Magic have that cow touching the green ball with its nose.

The crowd's roar almost lifts the roof off the big top. If a piaffe could have a swagger in it, Pat and Magic's does.

LIBERTY BELLE

The crowd calls out for more cow work. Pat says, "Again?! No, I've got something better for you..."

He brings in Mango and her little foal Liberty Belle. Pat orchestrates the cows, his dogs, Mango and Belle, setting the situation up so that Belle's confidence can grow. When Belle "just happens" to come upon the cows, her

whole demeanor changes. Cows!

Like a bird dog puppy when the instinct to point first wakes up in him, Belle is drawn to follow and dominate the cattle.

Pat sets it all up just so, and confident, independent little Belle drives the cattle in front of her out of the arena. What a finale to the cattle section, and what an opening to Pat's talk about Pre-ride Training.

"We saved this just for you, just for this Savvy Conference. This part of a young horse's development is SO important and so often overlooked completely.

"I have a dream that professionals

developed through my program will be paid top money to play with little foals, with weanlings, yearlings and two-year-olds, doing Pre-ride Training.

Someday in the race industry, when a horse wins a race, the announcer will name not only the owner, breeder and trainer, but also the Pre-ride Trainer—the person who built that young horse's confidence,



nurtured in him or her a love of learning and the self-assurance to take on the world."

Pat plays with Belle and orchestrates Mango as support for her foal. The red leather of Pat's chaps is the same shade as Belles rich bay hide, the tan of his shirt close to Mango's golden dun color.

Pat struts and swaggers as he leads his little charge in her lessons; the bright bay filly with her exquisite black muzzle and bold bright eyes stays confident, opinionated, unsullied, as she learns more about life and her world.

PAT, JAKE AND THE BLUE ROAN COLT...

Pat introduces Jake, a young Australian who all his life has lived with pain as a result of an infection that ate away his hip when he was a baby. Recently, Jake was the youngest person ever to have hip replacement surgery, and now although he still limps, for the first time in his 22 years Jake is free of pain.

Jake leads into the arena the subject for the Coltstarting demonstration. Pat asks, "What's his name?" Jake looks over the plain little blue roan gelding and makes up a name on the spot. "Blue."

Blue looks quiet, almost docile. As Pat talks Jake through the steps of gaining Blue's acceptance of a human on his back, this is a special highlight for those who have the eyes to really see what Pat is doing. Pat reads the colt as unconfident and introverted, and sets it up so that Blue can't hide emotionally. His docile appearance is misleading; it takes all Pats capacity

to read the horse and the situation, to keep Jake and Blue safe and on track.

"The road is long, with many a winding turn, that leads to who knows where. But I am strong, and he ain't heavy...he's my brother..."

Pat carries Jake and Blue along. Outside the big top rain is falling. Inside there is a sense of family; the Parelli family watches Pat lead Jake and the young horse through this rite of passage.

After Jake has saddled him, Pat plays with Blue, riding Cash and using his long flag to direct the young horse. Bit by bit, the young horse softens, grows in confidence, as he takes the first steps on his journey to horse-man-ship.

"It's a long, long road, from which there is no return..."

"Horses teach riders and riders teach horses. I want every horse to be with someone who can give it confidence...many of you are here because you had the right horse to build your confidence and keep you in the game...we owe those horses from our past a dept of gratitude, and we can repay it by taking responsibility for building confidence in the horses of our today."

When Pat judges Blue to be ready, he says,

"Now, Jake, if it were me, I'd step up on him as if he'd been ridden a 1,000 times. That's what I would do..."



Jake smiles and the crowd laughs.

"Any last requests? Don't surprise or insult him...Now that you are up there, we could move Zone 4 a little bit, this

way and that...OR, I could throw my hat under him..."

Thunder rolls outside the big top. Inside, Jake and Blue take Blue's first ride, easy and casual as you like. Pat says, "Have you ever seen a foal born? This is as beautiful and as important as that. The rites of passage in a horse's life are birth, weaning and starting under saddle. If you do this right, your mom could watch you and be proud, and the horse can keep his dignity.

THE PRATER TWINS

On Sunday morning the sun shines on the glorious view, and the



mountains seem closer. Neil Pye introduces Evan and Cezanne Prater, and tells a little of their story. "Last year, Evan gave us the fright of our lives. She had an accident, and was in a coma for far too long. Now she is recovering, and she and her sister Cezanne live and work here at the Parelli ranch with us."

"May you never take one single breath for granted. God forbid that love ever leave you empty handed..."

Evanne, with the miniature horses Barnum and Bailey; and Cezanne, with the drafts, Thunder and Lightning, play at Liberty while time stands still and the beautiful song, "I Hope You



Dance," fills the big top with a sense of wonder at what Evanne has achieved in such a short time.

"Whenever one door closes I hope another opens. Promise me you'll give faith a fighting chance. I hope when you get a chance to sit it out or dance—I hope you dance..."

The dance of life takes many forms. Cezanne is dwarfed by the gentle giants she directs; the little minis reach up their delicate muzzles to Evanne.

Pat thanks the twins at the end of their session, "One day recently I saw Evanne picking up manure around my barn, and I told her it wasn't necessary. She responded: 'I'm not picking up this manure for you. I'm doing it for me.'"

PAT AND THE GREY MARES

Pat rides into the arena on black Magic, the two grey half sisters River and Nova on either side of him. River is gentler, more confident, knowledgeable and acquiescent; Nova is high spirited, skeptical, needing all

As Pat and Lauren work together, the mountains watch from afar; the crowd close up savors every nuance. Pat coaches Lauren to breathe in for upward transitions and out for downward transitions.



Pat's leadership to help her overcome her strong self preservation instincts.

White, black, white. Big, free moving, athletic, powerful mares, Pat sets one to spinning on the inside of a circle while the other lopes the outside. They stick to Pat and Magic like glue; the whole session is pure inspiration.

LAUREN AND RIVER

Pat lifts Lauren from her wheelchair and places her on River's back, and River's legs become Lauren's. Wynonna Judd's haunting words float down from the rafters of the Big Top.

"In my life there's been heartache and pain. I don't know if I can face it again..."

"...I can't stop now, I've traveled so far to change this lonely life..."

"Breathe in—trot. Breathe out—walk. Sit back, breathe in, and—canter depart. Come to the middle; put your right hand over her mane, now your left..." Lauren and River do flying changes down the center of the arena, while the mountains stand their silent vigil, and the crowd breathes in and out with Lauren.

"...I wanna know what love is—I want you to show me. I wanna feel what love is—I know you can show me..."

As Pat, Lauren and River finish their session, Neil comes in to tell a story about one of Lauren's benefactors.

"John Bartlett saw Lauren on a Savvy Club DVD, at a tough time in his life when he was sitting on his couch thinking too many sad thoughts. Lauren inspired John so much that he

paid a scholarship for her to come to the Parelli Center in Florida. Recently they met, and she thanked him for his gift. But he said, 'No, don't thank me. I am repaying you, for the inspiration that you gave me.'

"Let's talk about love—love that you feel inside. I wanna feel what love is—I know you can show me..."

As Lauren and River leave the arena, there is not a dry eye in the place.

We've glimpsed something extra-ordinary, as ordinary people and ordinary horses are empowered to transcend limiting circumstances.

SPECIAL PEOPLE AND SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

This article is an attempt to re-create the event for those who couldn't attend. The highlights, and the wonderful, special people whom Pat introduced us to, were so many that they could not all be covered here.



If I missed your favorite part or person, please forgive my omission and please share with your friends who didn't see it, the parts I missed...and encourage them to be here in person next year. Until then... "May the Horse Be with You." 🐾



1

I have recently passed the new Level 2 and I am looking towards my plans for the summer. I am wondering how you are advising students to move forward towards Level 3 since there is a bit of a gap...well actually more like a canyon, between the new Level 2 and the old Level 3. I have purchased Level 3, but I wouldn't even imagine for a moment that I am truly ready for it.

Why not? Have you tried? The missing ingredients concern reading the horse, not forcing and principles of Fluidity. The new Level 2 filled in many of these gaps...so until you try you won't know what you can't do or are not prepared to do. Try first, then write.



2

My main goal is to really polish what I have so far. Even though I have officially passed, I still have many moments of feeling less than adequate. Working on modulating my energy in a way that makes sense to my horse is high on my list.

Then your goal will take you down and frustrate you and your horse beyond belief...polish is something that happens way after Level 3. Before that, it makes us too 'critical' and that's what our horses distrust the most. Perfection is NOT what horsemanship is about. Horses don't 'get' that.

3

There are several tasks on the old Level 2 assessment that I am wondering about. Should I incorporate them in to my plan for the summer? Or are some of them outdated and no longer something you see as a legitimate part of your program? (i.e. Gallop for 30 seconds and flying lead change with wrist under reins)

Nothing is really outdated in terms of being able to do it with your horse. Which means, if you pursue them it can only expand your savvy. For many people, galloping for 30 seconds is impossible due to area restrictions...not just confidence. Our new criteria for Level 2 is supposed to fit anyone, anywhere. That means you should not have to trailer your horse somewhere to complete a task.

Flying lead changes are more a Level 3 task. Many of our students will never be interested in more than Level 2, but when they are—for artistic/enthusiastic/performance/professional reasons—then Level 3 & Level 4 is where it's at. Our goal is that our students fall in love with learning and as they reach each goal they tend to want more...because their self confidence and confidence as a learner has escalated.

When it comes to 'assessment' you should not be comparing the 'old' with the 'new.' Just do the new test. Many of the things we've left out are easy to do once you are Level 3... they don't necessarily contribute to Level 3.

4

I think there might be a few other things that I didn't include, such as bareback riding. It isn't in the new Level 2, but I do it all the time. I wonder a bit why you no longer suggest bareback riding? For me, a person who learned to ride at 40, it was the MOST important thing I did to develop my confidence while riding.

It's like Pat says about unicycles... they don't improve your balance, they PROVE your balance. It's interesting that many of our students end up finding bareback riding easier than with a saddle, and for two reasons:

1. Their saddles are dreadful when it comes to 'fitting' and not compromising their horse and therefore puts horse and rider out of balance/downhill/etc.

2. As a result the rider cannot access their Balance Point and braces in the stirrups...they don't ride as naturally as when bareback. When in a saddle, ride as if bareback...and when bareback, ride as if in a saddle (a good one!). A good saddle distributes the rider's weight, which is better than concentrated weight as when bareback.



5

So, as I sit here with a blank lesson plan journal in front of me trying to formulate a plan and stay true to the program I wonder where to begin. Is the old Level 2 truly outdated? If so how does one make the leap to the only available next step...Level 3????

Make the next step. Just move fearlessly into the Level 3 tasks. I think you'll be surprised as to how much comes relatively easy. And if you have something that doesn't...let us know.

So you want to be an instructor?

by Sharon Lindy



I just finished two tour stops with Pat and Linda in Ft. Worth, Texas and Guthrie, Oklahoma. The closing song went something like, "Who wouldn't want to be... Me?" It gave me goose bumps and put a smile on my face because I am getting to live the dream. My name is Sharon Lindy. I'm 46 and have been an Instructor since 1997. I'm from Valley View, Texas and have the privilege of having the best partner in the world—I call him Sparky Love. Pat teases that I pick my horse to match my hair color, but how I got Sparky and how I'm ready to have such a fabulous horse is another story.

What I'd like to tell you about is becoming a Parelli Professional. I know people see us (Instructors) at tour stops and out teaching and think, "I want to be like that." I'm always asked if I really know Pat and Linda. Yes I do, and yes they are nice people who care a lot! Actually they are the two most amazing people I've ever had the privilege of meeting. The other questions I get asked are, "Can you make a living as an Instructor? Do you find the horses or the people more challenging? What Level clinic do you teach the most? Do you get tired of teaching

Level 1? Will you teach me to start my colt? How do I go about becoming an Instructor?"

I've done all the mistakes I see people making, and I try to tell them a better way. Some get it right off and make the changes needed with not a backwards glance. Others, like me, keep running into the wall 'til they realize there is something very basic within themselves they need to change. Sometimes seeing the change that is needed can be easy, but the choice to change can still be challenging. Getting in control of your emotional state is probably one of the biggest challenges through this journey. I think I'm finally beginning to get it.

Horses have been a huge part of my life since I was six. As a kid in Pennsylvania, nothing else existed when I was off in the woods with my best friend and our horses. We even started our own horses when we were 14. Looking back, I know how little I actually knew back then, but I could get a horse to learn to trail ride.

I went off to college to become a Physical Therapist. Horses remained in both mine and my friend's lives and were something we did

whenever I'd come home for visits or when Gina would come visit me in Oregon where I went to school or in Texas where I eventually chose to live.

Once I was full time in the work force, horses again became my escape route. The first horse, Bobby, that I got in Texas didn't give me much trouble, but I found myself with minimal trail riding opportunities in the town of West, Texas (north of Waco). I was encouraged to choose a discipline to do with my horse. I chose reining and started taking a few lessons. My second horse, Misty, was not so sure of herself or me and she is the one who got me to Pat.

Long story short, my month in Pagosa in 1996 changed my life. I was a transformed person after my time there, and it took me several years to catch up with all the changes and get things lined out in my life. I was still working full time as a Physical Therapist and doing Parelli on the side on weekends. Back then you were invited to be an Instructor. I was thrilled to be invited but amazed at what it actually took to stay with it and become a good instructor. Each year Pat raised the bar of what it took to become an Instructor and what it took to stay. I've just gotten used to the idea that it will always change, and I'll have to do my best to stay caught up with the positive, progressive and natural part of this thing. One nice thing about that is it is always improving.

Can you make a living at this?

I gave you all that background to help answer the "Can you make a living at this?" question. What

I looked at my paycheck as a Therapist and looked at the money I was bringing in on the weekend as an Instructor and went, "I'm making almost as much on the weekend, and I enjoy that a whole lot more."

Each year Pat raised the bar of what it took to become an Instructor and what it took to stay. I've just gotten used to the idea that it will always change, and I'll have to do my best to stay caught up with the positive, progressive and natural part of this thing.

What you don't realize is all the expenses behind the scenes: health insurance, liability insurance, vehicle expenses, taxes and on and on. Getting started, having your name known, building a network of people takes time and exposure.

Pat's words of wisdom, "Take care of your horsemanship and it will take care of you." Who do you have to become? I chose to go full time at this endeavor in the spring of 2000. I got serious about taking care of my horsemanship. I quit my job and went on tour with Pat and Linda for eight weeks.



I had returned to Texas for a few last clinics to earn some money to live on during my apprenticeship for the next six months. Unfortunately, I got ran over by a suburban while crossing the road. I went from being on top of the world and in the best shape of my life to being unable to walk to the bathroom by myself. I became my own best patient and went about rehabbing myself. I arrived at my apprenticeship program on my 40th birthday, six weeks late, having missed the Coltstart, with balance that was on the mend, a separated left shoulder and—unbeknownst to me at the time—an undisclosed fracture of a cervical vertebra. I went about my business of learning as much as I possibly could and made sure

I still had the right to be there by not complaining or asking for special privileges. I was there trying to raise my level of horsemanship.

is not always apparent at first is what you have to be to be a successful instructor. When I first started being the businessperson that I'm not,

Pat's idea of half a day is 12 hours, and there were plenty of days we put in 16 hours of work. Apprentices do lots more than ride: we built fence, fed the herd, managed the horse health aspects, cleaned stalls, washed trucks, dug ditches, assisted in class and got four–five horses ridden in a day. That experience more than anything else has prepared me for what I do in the field. There are days I drive 17 hours after

So often what's going on is that both the horse and human are shouting at each other, but they can't hear because they don't understand what's being communicated.

teaching all day. Then the paperwork takes you several hours of your next day to catch up. Invariably when I get home I've got a fence to fix or something else that requires my attention. Then there's contacting the hosts to be sure the next clinics are coming together as planned, returning phone calls and paying the bills.

Currently I leave on tour the beginning of May and won't get back home again until you're reading this in October. So without the help of some mighty fine neighbors I'd never be able to do what I do. I have three people watch my place like hawks. Kenneth runs cows and uses my barn and pens. He cuts the hay and puts the cows in to eat down what the horses leave behind. Stephanie feeds when I'm gone and basically takes care of everything for me: forwards mail and checks on the house. I'm lucky to have a cop live on the other side. All three love horses and keep a close eye on my guys when I can't. Pam or Bruce takes care of Roper for me if I have to fly somewhere. The logistics of doing what I do takes some planning and an army of friends.

Do you find the horses or the people more challenging?

To be a good instructor the horses have to already be easy for you. That's why I put so much time into my horsemanship first. When I first started teaching I would watch and see a problem but not know

person figure out how to ask the question in a more palatable way for the horse to get it.

As I've gotten better I can see that without taking hold of the horse. I'm much better at reading things and seeing patterns now. I also try to fix things in general terms because when I'd try to get someone to get it right, I'd invariably cause the human to feel wrong which was not my aim at all. This is a people-training program not a horse-training program. The horse does get trained in the process, but the horse is not the one who is wrong. As Linda says, "He's just giving you feedback." Pat says, "If you are not getting what you want, you asked the wrong question or you asked the question wrong."

So often what's going on is that both the horse and human are shouting at each other, but they can't hear because they don't understand what's being communicated. Stopping and taking a fresh start is always a good approach. I firmly believe that everyone is doing the best they can with the information they have. Because I've made most of the same mistakes I see people making, I know it's a process and a journey and you'll get it when you are ready and not before. So I do a little Tom Dorrance thing and have the parrot keep talking 'til the message gets through. Anyone who's ever been to one of my clinics can attest to the fact that I'll say things at least three times in several different ways.

There are difficult horses. Believe me—I've had a few. Most are human created problems, and the horse is just doing what he feels he has to do. When you get it right with that horse, there is a change. Love, language and leadership really work with horses. But do you really understand love? Love is unconditional yet it has boundaries, expectations, mutual trust and respect. Horses live in the moment and they miss nothing. Humans live in the future and the past and deal with denial, anger, blame and chaos and must get into the present to make a change. So are the people difficult? Can be if you choose to allow them to be.

What Level clinic do you teach the most?

It's all about the basics. The better you have your basics working, the sooner you can get fancy stuff to work. Since everyone needs to start at the beginning and not everyone sticks to the journey (because it is not

the easiest path), Level 1 is the clinic I teach the most often.

I enjoy all the Levels. It never ceases to amaze me that on day one if you were to take a mental picture of the horses and humans in the morning as they arrive, then compare that to what they look like arriving on day two you would swear it was 10 new people and 10 new horses. There is that much difference every time. I never get tired of



photos courtesy of Allison Congdon

just how to tell someone to go about fixing it 'til I got my hands on the rope and felt what was going on between the two of them. Then I could help the horse figure out there was a different answer, and I'd go about helping the



that. I've encouraged some of my students who are stuck somewhere in their Level 3 to bring a different horse to Level 1 again, and they are always surprised to find some basic thing that opened their eyes to solve the problem they were having with their advanced horse.

I have gotten here by leaving my personal life on hold for the past seven years. You might be wondering why I did what I've done. I've decided to join in a vision.

Will you teach me to start my colt?

The answer is I am not qualified to teach Coltstarting. That's Level 4. Yes you can bring it to play on the ground in a Level 1 clinic, but you will not be getting on. And if it's your first Level 1 clinic—I'll tell you that is not the place to start.

What is it like being an Instructor?

I forgot one last behind the scenes look at my life. I was home 100 days last year—45 of them in a row starting in December. My typical day starts at 6:00AM with coffee, feeding horses, cleaning stalls, grooming—then it's breakfast and a shower for me. I'll meet with the host by 8:00 and set up the arena. I start teaching by 9:00 and am done by 5:00 or so. Then people either want some private help or some private time. So typically I'm really done by 9:00 or 10:00 at night, and I get up and do it again the next day. I do a minimum of two days in a row and have done up to 12. Plenty of times my day off is actually traveling to the next venue. If I find myself with a few days between venues, I find the local trail of interest between the next stop and me. I saddle both horses and pony one out and the other back. Some of my favorite places I've ridden are: Brown County, Indiana; Stroud's Run, South East Ohio; Caprock Canyon, Texas; and the Garden of the Gods, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Sometimes I go alone—sometimes I can arrange to have friends meet me there.

I do fly to some of the places I go. New York and Connecticut are just too far from Texas to drive there comfortably. I however get airsick and never know if I'm going to get off the plane feeling hunky dory or if I'm going to be a vertigo ridden, nauseated mess. I've learned to not count on being able to function on the day of arrival. I remember arriving in Washington D.C. on a perfectly nice day, on a large aircraft—which normally would equal a successful trip for me—but they took a funny banking turn to avoid air space and they made about three or four of these with ascending and descending banks, and I went from fine to a mess in 20 minutes flat. Then you have to ride a bus—which is actually more difficult for me than the plane—and I was basically useless. I had arranged to trailer load a horse that they could not get to the clinic. So even after a two-hour nap, the 45-minute car ride had me green again. Long story short, I had the horse loaded within an hour and made it home to sleep.

The days are long. The travel for me is extensive, but the people you meet are great for the most part. Usually if someone is being difficult, I've done something to contribute to the problem so I try to figure out what I can do differently to get the desired outcome. Being a student is one journey that never ends. I will always be Pat and Linda's student.

How do I become an Instructor?

Becoming an Instructor is yet another journey. It is not for everyone. If you want to do it because you think the money is good, be ready for a long journey. I've been an Instructor since 1997. 2004 was the first time I turned a profit. Currently, I'm a very successful Instructor, and I love what I'm doing. I have gotten here by leaving my personal life on hold for the past seven years. You might be wondering why I did what I've done. I've decided to join in a vision. Pat had a talk with us in 1996 in a place on the ranch called Bear Wallow. One of the things he shared with us that day was a vision of changing the world for horses. He wanted our help to get 100 Level 3 people on three different continents so the movement would be so strong that people would be doing Natural Horsemanship without having to be taught. It's the 100th monkey story of monkeys on an island that were starving. A scientist taught the monkeys to wash potatoes. The monkeys would eat the potatoes if they were washed but would not eat them without being washed. Once the scientists got 100 monkeys washing potatoes, other monkeys started washing potatoes, and monkeys on a neighboring island were washing potatoes also.

So I teach Pat's Program for several reasons. It's taught me more about myself and my horse than anything else I've ever done. It's a



great way to improve people's lives, and I get paid to help people learn to have fun with their horse. How much better can that be? The journey has not always been easy but I wouldn't trade this journey for the world. I wouldn't suggest it's for everyone either. If you love horses and love people and want to join in the vision and you're not afraid of hard work, long hours and self development, then check out the Parelli web site under Instructor. Go to how to become a Parelli Professional, and it's all laid out for you. Above all, enjoy the journey. 🐾

No Matter Where We Go There We Are

What is Italy?

Parelli Italia invited Pat and Linda's photographer, Coco, to Italy to capture their Savvy Center and the spirit of their country. Here is what she discovered.

*What is Italy?
Is it the food? The sunflowers?
Is it the people?
The musicians?
The artists?
The mimes?
The Italian men?
or women?
Is it about olives?
Grapes?
The history? The architecture?*



Coco



It is all these things
and more.
It is love.
It is language.
It is leadership.
It is all things.
Parelli. Universal.
Do you Parelli?

-Coco

HOT DATE DOWN UNDER!

by Sophie Love

It's been a long time between drinks (as we say in the land of heat and dust)—two years since Pat and Linda were last in Australia. In that time a lot has changed. Parelli have concluded their relationship with the Australian distributor, and set up their own office in Wilton, New South Wales. They are in the process of re-establishing a direct connection with their supporters and students so that there is one central source of love, language and leadership and no chance of the message becoming diverted, perverted or otherwise 'Chinese whispered' on its journey out to you!

And if we're to get clear on what Pure Parelli really is, we need to see it in action. So we're very excited that Pat and Linda are heading Down Under and will be presenting the two day Parelli International Conference at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre on the 10th and 11th March 2007.

But why the long absence and what are the dynamic duo looking forward to in Australia? We were lucky enough to grab this exclusive interview in a brief break from their hectic US tour schedule...

G'day guys, where have you been?!

PAT: Hi there. We've been concentrating on the American horse lovers for a change! We spent so much time in Australia and Europe in the 1990's that for the past few years we decided to stop travelling overseas for a little bit so we could focus on our horses, build our school and develop our tours around the USA.

What do you most look forward to when you head Down Under?

LINDA: Everything really...our family, our students, the beaches, the country, the food. Australia has a very warm place in our hearts.

Australian attitudes to their horses seem to be very different from Europeans or Americans, does that make your message different over here?

PAT: We attract a certain mentality of horse owner, horse lover...it doesn't seem to matter what their background or discipline is. They're people who are trying to learn more and become a better leader for their horse—they care what the horse thinks about them.

LINDA: We find that no matter where we go, the attitudes are similar, it's more about what people want out of their relationship with the horse.

Linda, is it true that you are actually Australian?

LINDA: Actually I came to Australia when I was 12, so I spent my formative years growing up in Sydney and working there until I 'ran away with a cowboy' in 1993 at age 35. I was born in Singapore which was at that time part of the



Commonwealth so I have a British as well as Australian passport. My mother is Swiss, my father is Scottish, and now I have such a mixed up accent that I sound like a foreigner wherever we go!

Which horses will you be bringing with you?

LINDA: At the moment we're looking into it. Our schedule is pretty tight and quarantine eats up a lot of time, so we are investigating our options. I really hope we can, it's wonderful to be able to share the special relationship you can have with your own horse.

Do you get nervous about freighting your star horses around the world?

PAT: Not really. We concentrate very hard on keeping them healthy and given that they travel thousands of miles by road every month without a hitch, we think a ride in a jet is going to seem pretty easy for them!

What do you see as the greatest challenge in converting Australians to a more 'savvy' mindset?

PAT: I think it's hard for anyone to make a change in their lives—to do something different from traditional horsemanship or what their friends are doing. It's even harder when people have to accept that maybe it's not the horse that is the problem. It takes courage to look at your own behaviour and figure out what needs to change there so that your horse likes you more and *wants* to do things with you. This isn't unique to Australia—it's a human thing. People who are open to learning, who want to improve themselves, who want a better relationship with their horse, who want to learn more natural ways of achieving their recreational or performance goals with their horses are the ones who soar in the Parelli program.

What will be the format for the Australian Seminar? What can we look forward to that we haven't seen before?

LINDA: This has not been finalized yet, but if you understand that Pat and I are improve-aholics, you know you're in for a treat.

Obviously you've changed and grown enormously since you were last here. What would you say would have been your biggest lessons and changes over the past 10 years?

PAT: My biggest changes have occurred because our business here has become so well organised with such strong people at the helm. Now I can focus on my own horsemanship again. For the longest while, I've travelled and taught and done whatever it took to get my message across, often at the expense of my own development. In this past year alone the growth in my horses and in myself has been explosive.

LINDA: My biggest changes have been in the quality of my teaching and the depth of my savvy with horses. I find I'm able to create rapport with horses very quickly now and getting them to do things with me is easy and calm...I've learned how to help our students understand more deeply what that takes so they can do it sooner. I've also expanded my research on biomechanics and found simple, yet dramatically effective, ways to help horses and riders move better together.

Practicing Parelli seems to fundamentally change not only the way we interact with horses, but also our human relationships. How has the Natural Horse•Man•Ship Journey changed your personal make-up since you started really using savvy with horses?

PAT: That's a deep question and hard to answer in just a few lines! I think the best way to say it is that it makes you a calmer person with a broader and more philosophical outlook. You're not such a victim to what happens, you learn how to be in more harmony with yourself, others, your horse, and all living things. You're open to change in whatever form it comes. We have a saying in our horsemanship courses which is "Zero Brace." When you start applying that to your everyday life you realize how much you tend to brace before you think or when you cause brace in others. Just becoming more conscious at that level that makes for a very different life experience.

How has the Parelli Natural Horse•Man•Ship home study program changed over the past few years?

LINDA: Dramatically. While the principles of the Parelli system remain strong and true, our way of teaching it has grown enormously and as a result our students are more empowered. Dr. Stephanie Burns, an education specialist who lives in Australia, spent a couple of years with us and helped us improve our teaching approach. Students need a lot of support, and many people have been damaged as learners in their early years, so they shut down or avoid



learning situations altogether. We didn't realize how much more we needed to do for our students, it's easy to think that just giving them the information is enough! Our new home study programs are much more dynamic and interactive, with step by step learning techniques and an enormous DVD resource you keep coming back to time and again until you're confident.

Do you need any mad, bad and dangerous to know horses for your demonstrations (shall we start rustling them up?)

LINDA: Not sure at this stage, but if we do we know who to call! While many 'doubters' want to see Pat prove himself by wrestling alligators, it doesn't mean much to the average horseman and woman. They don't have such extreme horses, they want to see how their relationship and results can improve through our program—and if they do have an extreme horse there's an important decision to make: How hard am I willing to work on myself to get enough savvy so this horse can stop fighting for his life and his dignity and totally trust me?

Who will you most be looking forward to catching up with while you're here?

LINDA: All our students! It's been years since we've seen them and there are many who've known us since the late 1980s, since the organisation started.

What is your vision for the future of Parelli in Australia?

PAT: That our students there get the same experience as our students in the USA and at the same time. It's wonderful to have our own office there again and it means that people can feel us directly again, if not always in person then certainly through everything else we do.



Did you know that Pat's super-mare, Magic, is originally from Tasmania?



Will you get a chance for a holiday while you're here? Where will you go to get away from it all?

LINDA: It's unlikely, and we'd get bored anyway! It's hard to imagine a vacation without our horses.

Any special message for us Aussies?

PAT: Thanks for hanging in there with us. A growing business always has teething problems and you guys have been with us since the beginning. You've witnessed all our successes and mistakes, and stuck by us regardless. That means a lot to us. 🐾

**THE NEW PARELLI AUSTRALIA OFFICE IS AT
50 LISA ROAD, WILTON NSW 2571**



Parelli International Conference

Linda and Pat Parelli will be presenting a two day 'Horse Lovers Only' once in a lifetime experience at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre on the 10th and 11th March 2007. To book your tickets call 1800 460 988 now! Seating is Limited.



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2. The "Parelli Ranch Roper": A hard-working saddle for cowboys interested in a heavy-duty roping saddle with authentic old-time looks and features. (Under development, not pictured)
3. The "Parelli English Fluidity": A general-purpose English style saddle with form and function to suit a variety of pursuits. (Under development)

Information on saddles under development will become available only when Pat and Linda's extensive testing produces the results they seek.



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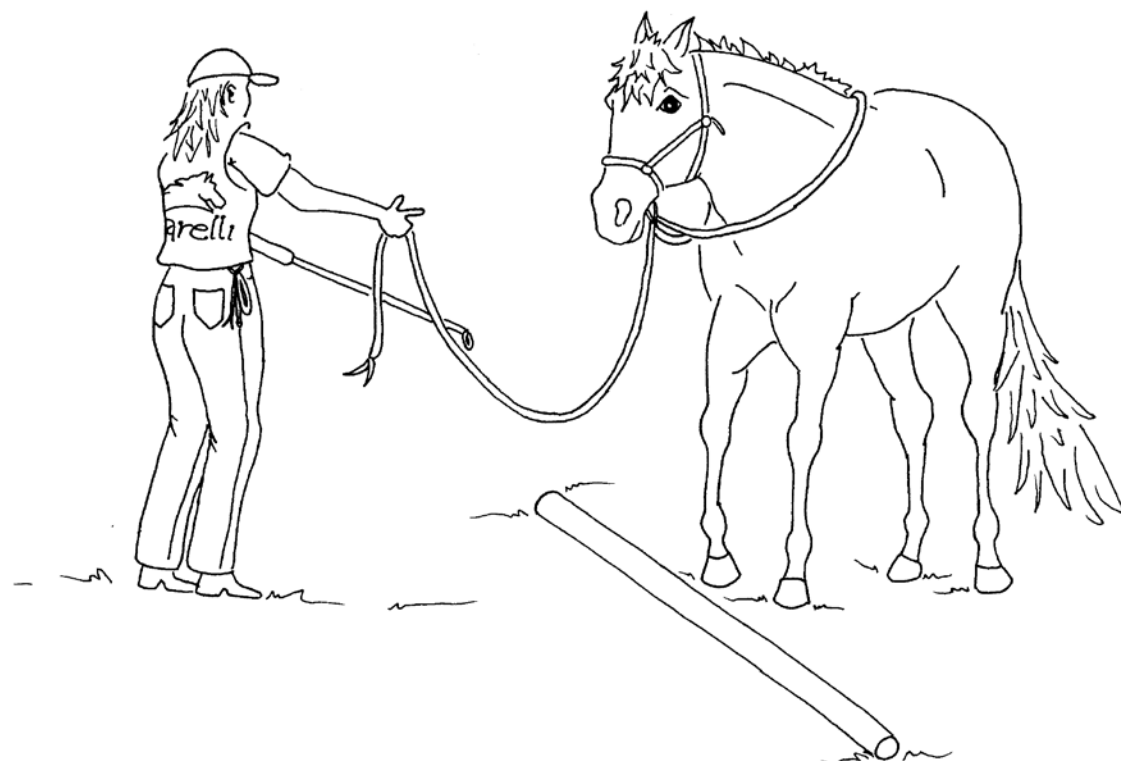
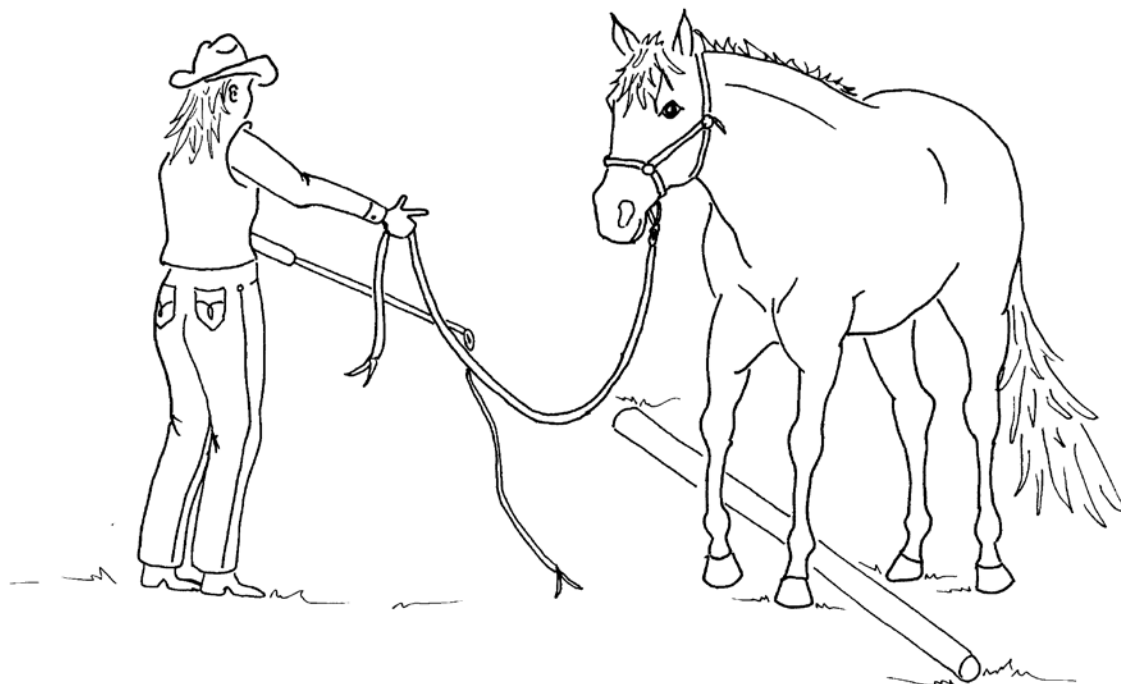


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Can you find the nine differences between the first and second picture? After you find all of the differences (answers below) have fun coloring in the pictures.



Differences: 1) Hat 2) Logo 3) Shirt 4) Savvy String moves from Carrot Stick to her pocket 5) Design on Pockets 6) Pole 7) Hackamore 8) Horse's Ears 9) Horse's Eye

Welcome to the New
Savvy Club Web Site!
www.parellisavvyclub.com

www.parellisavvyclub.com

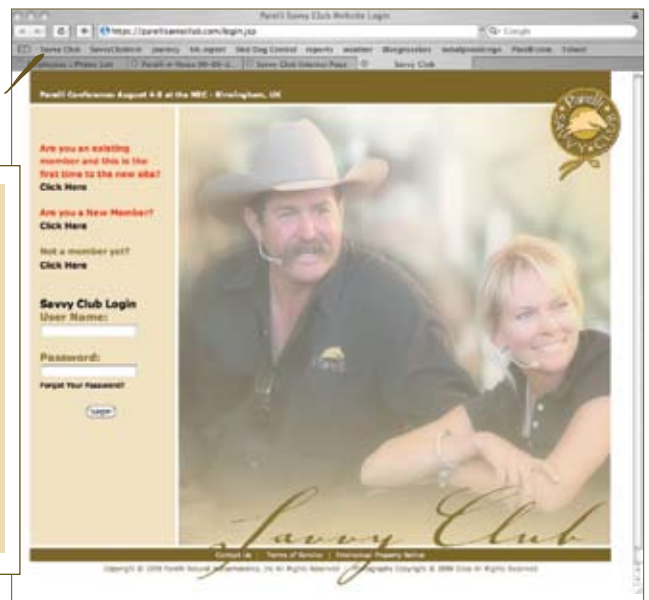
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log in

- If it's your first visit to the new site, you'll need to re-register with us before logging in.
- New members, you too can register here.
- And if your friends would like to join the Club, they can now sign up online.



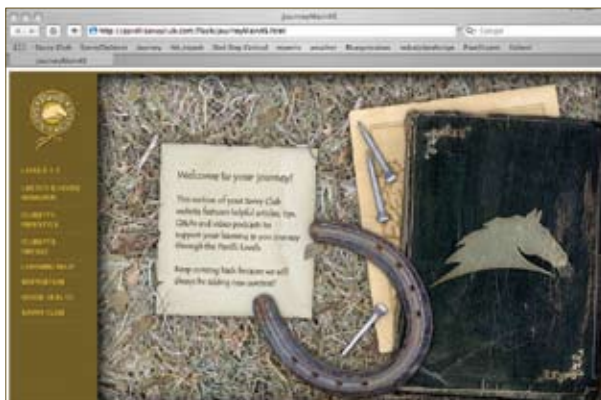
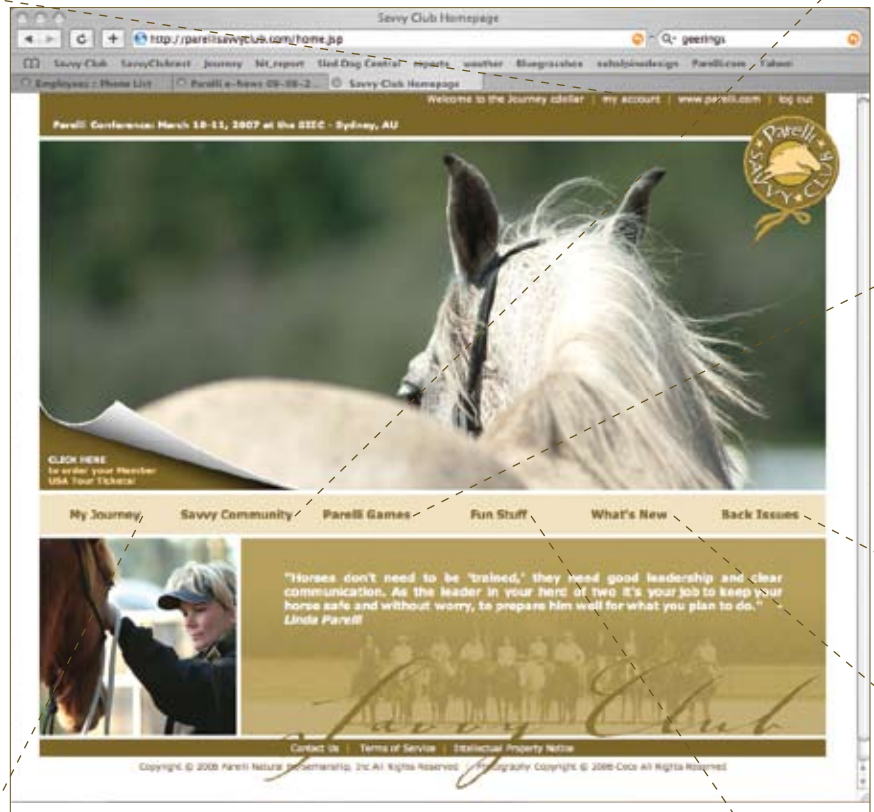
My Journey

- **My Journey:** This is just the beginnings of our virtual library. We've categorized our information by Level and Savvy. The example below and to the right shows the page for Level 2 Freestyle. Once you've selected a category, you can view articles, virtual instructor Q&A and video clips related to the topic you're studying.

Other category topics include:

Liberty & Horse Behavior,
Fluidity I—Freestyle, Fluidity
II—Finesse, Learning Help,
Inspiration and Horse Health.
If you're interested in the Parelli
Center experience, check out the
daily blog from one of our stu-
dents under the course topics.

- Savvy Tips: this is an archived library of our podcasts featured at parelli.com and in e-News.



Savvy Community

- Forum: a place to meet fellow members and share stories; includes classifieds section
- Member Locator: see members in your area; (in the works: the option to show your contact details for other members to reach you)
- Chat Room: real time chat with members around the world

Parelli Games

You may have seen students play the Parelli Games at Tour events or the Savvy Conference. Now play at home. This is the booklet from the former web site. We've categorized it by Savvy and made it easier to access each task. Great ideas for a creative play day with friends, and you can download the entire PDF.

Back Issues

We've got info on every CD, DVD and magazine from the first Savvy Times released in October 2003–present. Now, you can download all of the magazine issues as a PDF and watch clips from the DVDs. Missing an issue? Check out the descriptions and order your back issues. Hurry, a limited quantity is only available while supplies last.

What's New

This link takes you to the latest e-News to keep you up to date.

Fun Stuff

- Follow The Tour Team: after each event the Tour Team will recap their highlights as well as post interesting facts about our volunteers & ambassadors.
- Show Moments: fun video clips of one of a kind moments from Tour events and Conferences
- Outtakes/Bloopers: video clips
- Cooking with Linda: recipes
- Behind the Scenes: video clips

Savvy Club Update



TOUR STOP ADMISSION

We ask that Savvy Club members reserve their seats at Tour stops by requesting a ticket for themselves and anyone who is attending on their membership. You are helping us keep a head count to ensure everyone gets a seat.

To request your free tickets log in to the Savvy Club web site (www.parellisavvyclub.com), click on the link for tickets (found in the lower left hand corner of the featured photo on the homepage) and fill out the online form. Please note you can only request as many member tickets as the number of people on your membership. In addition to your member tickets, you can request up to five buddy passes for friends.

MEMBERS RECEIVE 25% OFF!

Members receive 25% off all Parelli education and equipment! This offer applies for members whether they order on the web, call us by phone or make a purchase at a tour stop. (Note: Course Discounts remain at 35%)

When completing an order in the Parelli web shop, make sure that the system has recognized you as a Savvy Club Member. When you are properly recognized, the upper right hand corner will say, "Welcome (your user name). You are a Savvy Club Member." The log in page explains the steps you need to take to make sure you are recognized. If you have followed all of the steps and still have problems, please e-mail savvyclub@parelli.com or call 1-800-642-3335 (US) or 1800 460 988 (AU) or 0800 023 4813 (UK).

SAVVY CLUB MEMBERS' JOURNAL

As of September 8th, members joining the Savvy Club will receive—for each member on their membership—a special journal to record important dates, events and memories with their horse. Includes a convenient day planner, and each page has inspiring photos



and savvy wisdom from Pat and Linda. This replaces the former Passport. Existing members can get one for only \$5.95.

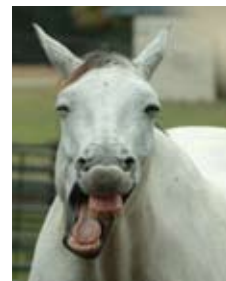
DON'T FORGET YOUR PASSPORT OR JOURNAL & MEMBERSHIP CARD



Requesting tickets will get you in free to all the Parelli Tour stops, but don't forget your Parelli Passport/Journal and membership card. Your passport/journal can be stamped at the Savvy Club booth with a unique stamp at every Tour stop or major Parelli event. Document your journey! And your card will be swiped to add your 25% discount to your purchases at the show. Lost your card? Be sure to have a record of your member number.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

This is your Club and we want you to contribute! Send us your home movies of savvy or fun moments with your horse for us to share through our weekly podcasts.



- Send a VHS, DV tape or CD with either QuickTime, Real Player or Windows Media Player files **no longer than five minutes**
- Include your email address, Savvy Club membership number and a signed note stating "I give Parelli Natural Horsemanship permission to podcast and post my video on their web site"
- Mail your videos to: PODCAST at Parelli Natural Horsemanship, PO Box 3729, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Videos submitted will not be returned.

Do you have stories or photos you'd like to share, too? Send them in! Mail can be sent to the address above, Attn: Savvy Times, or you can e-mail savvyclub@parelli.com.

"T-Day" improved every other thing we do together!



Student:	Vonni [Yvonne Wilcox]
Horse:	Escada [Kenlyn Muscata]
Age/Breed:	6-year-old Bay Arabian Mare
Levels achieved:	Level 2 on the ground through self-assessment with the Pocket Guides.
Levels Goal:	Used to be: To complete Level 3 on the ground before trying to achieve Levels 2 and 3 in the saddle. Now: As above...plus to always remember to put our relationship before my goals!

In the last seven issues of Savvy Times, Yvonne has shared her journey through Level 2 skills, bucking issues, and what it was like to have a Fluidity lesson with Linda on her Dutch Warmblood, Remmer.

This issue we hear about "T-Day," the trailer loading session that was to be without stress, anxiety, dust and sweat (for both horse and human).

"T-Day" is what I lovingly referred to as the trailer loading day I was dreading. Winter boarding was coming to an end and I was going to have to trailer my horse home.

The problem is, my horse, Escada, hates my little old two-horse front load trailer. It's small and not very well designed (but it's mine and I'm grateful to have it).

I mentioned in my last journal entry that Escada's trailer loading has come a long way from the days she would rather be dead than load. Thanks to my Level 1 and 2 skills I can help her into big roomy stock trailers without much fuss, but my trailer is not big and roomy!

The usual trailer loading scenario for us is me waiting until it's the day we have to leave. (Yes, I admit to perpetrating Pat's number one trailer loading don't..."Don't wait 'til you're late for the show!") So that was my first downfall.

To try to compensate for this I would start my loading session about three hours before I knew I had to leave. My excuse was that my trailer was never in a spot that I could practice with it. I couldn't find the time to find a place for it, but somehow I could find the time to take three hours to stress-out myself and my horse, every time we had to trailer somewhere!

I don't have to trailer her very often, so the out-of-sight-out-of-mind factor applied here. I didn't really want to think about loading her until I really had to.

The last time I had a loading session with her was when I needed to get her to her winter home here in Colorado. That session was what caused me to come up with the idea of "T-Day." By the time she was in the trailer at the point where I could tie her, we were both sweaty, both upset (she scared, me frustrated and feeling defeated) and both very tired.

I had put too much pressure on her, trying to make the outside of the trailer uncomfortable and the inside of the trailer comfortable. I did not have the savvy to really understand what I was doing and I used a "technique" to try to get the job done, instead of paying attention to what my horse REALLY needed. I can say this now because now I know more. At the time I just felt sad because I knew my horse wished I didn't exist.

So time passed. Escada was now with a little herd at her winter home and I went to Florida to do ten weeks of video taping for my job with Parelli.

My last two journey entries talked about how the information Pat and Linda were teaching in those weeks at the Florida Center filtered into my brain and how not having

my horse there with me meant I couldn't practice or digest what was happening. I had lots of "Aha" moments and watched lots of students making amazing progress with their horses but didn't get to feel it for myself. It got into my head but not "into my bones."

As T-Day approached, I wanted to "do it right" this time. Basically this meant: trailer load my horse and it be pleasant for both of us. Just in time for this came the task of editing the video materials from the Liberty and Horse Behavior Course we taped during the ten weeks I was in Florida.

With spring appearing and my horse losing her winter fuzz, I was getting excited about getting to watch Pat and Linda on the videos and actually be able to go out and try it with my horse.

I think in my last journal entry we had only just begun watching the footage and I was playing with mirroring and being more considerate in how I asked Escada to do things. I was playing with the trailer without having to go anywhere, and I was not trying to put a time limit or expectation on how far we would get in a session.

WELL! In between writing about the last session and writing this now, we got through the whole rest of the video material. That whole experience is what turned T-Day into "F-Day" (Fun, Fabulous, Fantastic...any word

The result of learning more about patience means I can now trailer load Escada and she doesn't hate me in the process!



starting with F that means GREAT!).

About half way through editing the Liberty and Horse Behavior DVDs, there is a lecture on leadership and a trailer loading session with Linda that goes for three hours! It was these sessions that made the difference that “made the difference.”

I think I mentioned the leadership lecture two magazines ago—it is powerful and transformational for many reasons. This lecture gave me permission to take control of my own life. When I saw in black and white what I needed to learn in order to be a better leader for my horse, I jumped right in.

Then, the three hour trailer loading session put lots of pieces into place, but the biggest thing was being able to sit through three hours without taking a break or getting up to get a drink or go to the bathroom...I sat there and watched Linda do whatever it took to help a horse go from fear to confidence with an obstacle—the trailer. In that three hours the biggest thing I came away with was the courage to truly have PATIENCE with my horse.

Even though I had been playing “without a time limit,” I never dreamed of doing it for more than about two hours! (When I “had” to get her on the trailer to go somewhere, somehow that was different! Three hours was a necessity, not a play session.) So I planned my next session with the trailer based on this new knowledge.

To set myself up for success, I knew I needed to be able to spend all day or more if necessary; be completely alone so I wasn't worried about what an onlooker might think; have the trailer in the correct position for practice; have water and food close by so I didn't have to leave; a T-shirt if it got hot; a coat if it got cold; and comfortable shoes!

I was nervous on the day before. With setting everything up for success, I was concerned that if something didn't go right then it really was going to be me to blame! (Need to hear that leadership lecture again...)

So I arrived at Escada's pasture, she was happy to see me because I had been diligent about our play sessions being fun and interesting for her.

I took her out to graze and played sniff, this, sniff that, sniff the trailer, sniff something else, sniff the trailer...

When I saw she could start sniffing the trailer with some confidence, we started playing other Games around it, then I opened the door, then something different happened.

One of the concepts Linda talked about in the debrief with her students after the three hour loading session, was “confidence in zones.” I noticed that when I would motion to Escada to move toward the trailer, she'd take a step or two, then quit. To me that meant she had confidence with the trailer about three feet away from Zone 1! Aha I thought, we have progressed, because she used to only have confidence with the trailer being ten feet away from Zone 1!

I started to work on helping her with her confidence, inch-by-inch, in those three feet in front of Zone 1. I know I'm not savvy or skilled enough YET to play with Escada the way Linda did with her three hours horse, so I just had to do what I could manage. Linda says, “You have to do what YOU feel confident doing.” For me, that meant taking it slow, slow, slow.

When Escada would take one step forward, I'd smile and then cock my leg and wait until she licked her lips. She was so used to me asking for more than just a step, and with so much intention and “push,” that this “new form of trailer loading” seemed to surprise her. I could see that with each new send and then the following “do nothing” for a long time, she began to like me more. As I write this it sounds odd, but it actually is what happened, and now I know why. It's because I wasn't pushing her into a threshold. As more and more time passed and I proved to her that I wasn't going to be the old trailer loading version of me, she really began to like me more!



Mostly I would wait until she would lick her lips before asking her to take a step forward, and sometimes that would take what seemed like five whole minutes! This was what also made me think she was having some deep processing going on in that amazing Russian Arabian brain of hers.

My attitude was: I'm going to wait for you to feel confident in this threshold forever if I need to, because I'm not going to push you through it.

So, inch-by-inch, and seven hours later (YES—SEVEN!!!), we had confidence loading into the trailer up to the very first part of Zone 3! I could point to the trailer, she could walk confidently and enthusiastically toward it and climb in with no assistance, and stop as soon as her front legs were standing on the trailer.

Then I'd back her out and we'd wait for however long she needed to lick her lips and realize this was all about her confidence and not about the trailer.

After seven hours it was about 6pm and I knew I had to stop. I could have kept going but I needed to have a night to think about everything that had happened.

The best part was that neither of us broke a drop of sweat in that whole time and neither of us were upset (or bored!). Even better, my horse was looking at me with an expression that said, "You know, I'm starting to think you might be alright..."

The next day, I went out with the same "set it up for success" plan. However long it takes, I don't care.

I was pleased that when she saw me she came right over. If that hadn't happened it would have made me question my actions the day before!

I halted her, went out to graze again, played sniff this, sniff that, sniff the trailer like the day before and her first sniff of the trailer was a confident one.

So the big test—if I pointed her at that open door, would she go straight in, confidently up to the first part of Zone 3 again? Pat says that if you do it right the first time it should take half that time the next day...

I pointed her at it, she walked toward it, and yes, she went straight in confidently up to the beginning of Zone 3! Hooray, I thought, this stuff really works!

I felt so elated. With this experience under our belts, continued patience, time, and no "pushing," I could see that one day she'd be able to walk her whole body, all five zones, in with confidence.

I stayed with her for three hours that second day and we were able to walk in confidently all the way up to the beginning of Zone 4.

The third day I stayed with her for an hour and-a-half and that was when all five zones

were able to walk in and out of that trailer with confidence.

Now we are playing inside the trailer with Yo-Yos and Porcupine (see photo on top left of this page), because once she was over her going in and out thresholds, I found that INSIDE the trailer has a whole new set of thresholds for us to play with.

I learned from this experience that patience really has a lot to do with generosity. Being generous with my time and attention is not something I do anywhere in my life. I didn't see that so clearly before this experience. I've also found that doesn't just mean being generous with my time for others, I've learned I can be more generous to myself as well—taking care of my health being one of those things!

As I look back over the last seven entries into this magazine journal, I feel like every article was written by a different person! At first this bothered me because I thought I knew who I was. But I guess this program and our horses cause us to keep evolving, and I'm starting to get used to that.

But the best part about T-Day being over is that it has affected what it's like to play with and ride Escada now. We can go on trail rides bareback and even trot comfortably with another horse running loose beside us... but that's a whole other story—see you next issue! 🐾

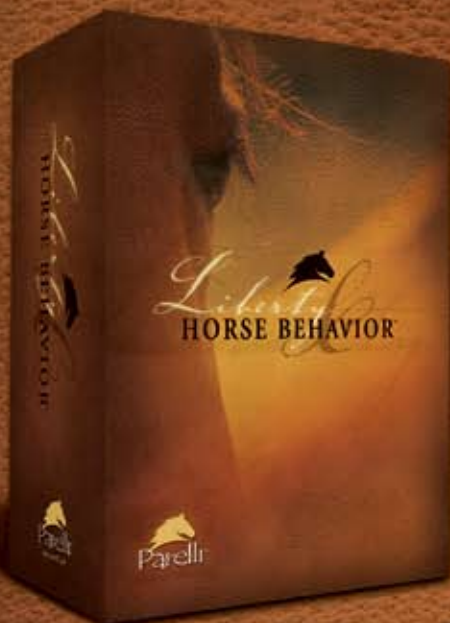


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New Release!



A JOURNEY TO FUSION 'DOWN UNDER'

Photos and Story by Sue Storrer, Australia

Horses are one of nature's finest achievements—if not the finest—and thanks to the power of the Parelli Program I can learn a natural way to communicate with my horse... "Ye Ha!"

I wanted the horse and the relationship that I had always dreamt of when I was a kid and

fortunately—after a couple of bad experiences—I found the Parelli Program and my horse, Ted, at the same time.

Ted and I started the Level 1 Program in January 2003 and after I stopped tripping up in the 12-foot Line and smacking myself with the stick and string, we progressed and passed Level 1 in September 2003. Looking back I realize



Ted is the perfect first horse to take through the program.

Overshadowing our progress was the saddle issue. I knew the saddles I had tried were wrong but I didn't know why, and I didn't know what to look for in a saddle. I quickly found out that some saddle makers and tack stores saddle fitting 'experts' didn't know either. My horse's ugly face and swishy tail told me a lot more.



The first thing I noticed when I sat in the saddle was how wide it was. My legs, knees and ankles just fell in the right place and it was so easy to find my balance point. I had plenty of room to move. I felt safe, comfortable and secure. My confidence increased immediately.



It wasn't until the first Fluidity course in Australia and Linda's Fluidity DVD that I started to get some answers about saddle fit,

reading the horse and staying out of the horse's way. I purchased a Theraflex air pad and tried to modify a little 'half breed' (fender) saddle until I could find a better saddle. Ted is a wide backed Quarter Horse (bred from cutting

lines), I live on a sheep (small wooly cows) property and I wanted a saddle to do the mustering (stock work), and still progress through the program. Most importantly I wanted a saddle that didn't hurt my horse and which allowed him to move freely.

Some time that year there was talk of a Fusion saddle (an amalgamation of English and Western) which was being developed in the style of a small Western and based on the Fluidity concepts, the horse's comfort and correct rider position. It sounded like just what I needed. Hallelujah!

By the time I attended the Advanced Fluidity course in April 2005 my saddle frustration was still



blocking our progress. Our instructor used Ted for a saddle fitting session. With flexi curves and wither tracing we could see exactly what the saddle

was doing to his back. I finished the course in the bareback pad and I never put that saddle on him again.

I was no sooner home from the Fluidity course when the Fusion saddle was available on Parelli Collection's website. I very carefully read all the information provided and it made perfect sense. It was as if this saddle was designed just for me and Ted (thanks Linda). I know it was a leap of faith but I had no hesitation ordering the Fusion saddle ASAP. My only concern was getting the order right and importing the saddle safely into Australia.

Now the wait (seven months)—time to develop my On Line and Liberty skills and bareback riding using the Fluidity concepts as well as learning more about horse nutrition, teeth, feet, etc. and improving our relationship. **HAPPY HEALTHY HORSE!**

I revisited Level 1 and Level 2 with the new packs, which filled in the gaps. The new Level 2 pack also provided more insight



and information on saddle fitting.

My Fusion saddle arrived in Australia in December 2005—I was so excited!!!

As Ted was unaccustomed to a back cinch I tried the Fusion saddle on for the first time in a round yard. I wanted him to feel the saddle without a rider. Well, it was a very dramatic response. As he moved out on the circle it looked like he wanted to buck. He arched his back like a cat as if he was trying to pull his neck out of his shoulders and dropped his head. He trotted around with his nose on the ground and then rocked back and offered a nice relaxed canter. I allowed him



to experiment as long as he needed.

The first thing I noticed when I sat in the saddle was how wide it was. My legs, knees and ankles just fell in the right place and it was so easy to find my balance point. I had plenty of room to move. I felt safe, comfortable and secure. My confidence increased immediately.

Without the excuse of a bad fitting saddle we both have a lot of experimenting to do. I have a better picture now of what I need to change in order to stay out of Ted's way, and he no longer has to tolerate a bad fitting saddle.

In January 2006 I passed Level 2 when having lessons with Helen Topp while she was here in Australia. A great start to 2006 with a new Fusion saddle and blue savvy string. As an added bonus—membership into the new Parelli International Savvy Club where I have now acquired all the back issues of DVDs and Savvy Times which contain invaluable information.

Now I feel set up for success to progress into Level 3. Linda's Fluidity concepts have unlocked many doors and the Fusion saddle has made it possible for me to ride through those doors.

Thanks to Pat and Linda and the POWER of the PARELLI PROGRAM the JOURNEY WITH FUSION 'DOWN UNDER' CONTINUES... 🐾



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—Linda Parelli



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